MEMOIRS

OF THE

CHEVALIER PIERPOINT,

AND THE

COUNTESS MELESINDA.

In FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

DUBLIN:

Printed by J. POTTS, at Swift's-Head in Dame-Street.

MDCCLXV.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

Chevalier PIERPOINT.

CHAP. XV.

THE ſun darted forth his golden beams over the face of our hemiſphere, when the amirante, awaked by the ſweet muſic of the birds, who, from the firſt notice of day, had been merrily chanting among the trees, aroſe, and had all the company called up. Soon after, Don Fernand, and Don de Silva being come, we went into the gardens and

ſate down to breakfaſt. Having made a ſhort morning repaſt, we ſet out for Madrid with all our train. Cœurleon, who was coming to Aranjuez, expected to meet us there, found us at a pleaſant ſpot, where we had ſtopped to take ſome refreſhment, during the heat of the day. Don Valdoranos, to whom we preſented him, received him with courteſy, and obſerved with pleaſure, how much he reſembled in features his ſiſter Meleſinda.

It was evening before we arrived at Madrid. There we parted company after ſeveral civilities paſt between us, and Cœurleon conducted us to a very fine houſe, he had procured for us in the grand ſquare, or Piazza Mayor.

I ſhall now give a ſhort account of Madrid, where we ſpent three months very delightfully.

Madrid is the capital of the principality of New Caſtile, and of the kingdom of Spain; ſituated almoſt in the middle of a large plain, encompaſſed with high mountains. It is about ſeven miles in circumference, without walls or fortifications, therefore ſtill called only Villa. But this Villa contains ſeveral grand ſtreets and ſpacious ſquares. The largeſt and moſt magnificent of theſe latter, is named the Place-

Place-Mayor, being ſurrounded by ſtately and uniform houſes, five ſtories high, with a gilt balcony to each ſtory; the whole ſupported by a noble cloyſter or pompous colonade with arches.

There are three royal palaces at Madrid, called the Palace Royal; the Caſa del Campo; and the Buen Retiro.

The Palace Royal is built on an eminence, which inſenſibly deſcends to the very banks of the river Manſanarez. It has ſeveral views of the country, which is very delightful. Two pavilions compleat the front. The apartments are furniſhed with excellent pictures, rich tapeſtry, and fine ſtatues. And indeed all the houſhold ſtuff one ſees at Madrid is extremely rich. It conſiſts of tapeſtry, cabinets, paintings, fine looking glaſſes and plate. The vice-roys of Naples and the governors of the Low countries, brought home admirable tapeſtries; the vice-roys of Sicily and Sardinia, moſt excellent embroideries and ſtatues; thoſe of the Indies, precious ſtones, and veſſels of gold and ſilver.

The gardens of the Palace Royal deſcend to the banks of the Manſanarez; where

—— Variæ circumque, ſupraque
Aſſuetæ ripis volucres, et fluminis alveo.
Æthera mulcebant cantu, lucoque volabant.

The birds that haunt the borders of the ſtream,
And fly with painted wings the groves among
Sooth the charm'd ear with their melodious ſong,

The Buen Retiro is a royal palace near one of the entrances of the city. The ſituation is on the deſcent of a little hill, from whence is a pleaſant proſpect. Four grand apartments and four grand pavilions make a perfect ſquare; in the middle of which is a large flower-plat, and a fountain, which at proper ſeaſons ſprinkles the flowers and the walks, that lead from one apartment to another. The rooms are large, ſtately, and adorned with curious paintings. Every thing ſhines with gold and lively colours, with which the cielings and floors are beautified.

The park of Buen Retiro is about a league in compaſs. In it are divers handſome lodges; a fine canal and a large piece of water, on which the king has little gondola's painted and gilt. He conſtantly comes here during the great heats of ſummer, the fountains, ſtreams, and meadows making the place cool and pleaſant. Here are groves, grottoes, waters, ſhades, and in ſome parts the wild mixt with the cultivate.

The room for acting plays is well deſigned, very large, all ornamented with carving

ing and gold. Fifteen may ſit in a box, without inconvenience to each other. The boxes have all ſplendid latices, and the king's is more richly gilt and adorned than the reſt.

Hither the knight of Calatrava carried us to ſee a comedy of the celebrated Calderona's *; the title was the Languiſhing coquette.

Meleſinda ſate in the next box to the king's, with the princeſs of Avila, to whom Cœurleon had introduced her. Don de los Torres, baron Swenitz, and myſelf, took our ſeats in the amphitheatre, where after admiring ſome time the granduer of the decorations, I have heard the author of this comedy Don Pedro Calderona, ſaid I to him, very much extolled; have I been miſinformed? No, replied he, Calderona is excellent. He was a fine writer, and yet more, a modeſt man. His taſte and genius were far above the works for which he is admired. So true it is, that whoever has an idea of what is truly perfect, perceives at the ſame time that he has not equalled it; and he who fancies he has attained it, has not ſuch a diſtinct idea of it, as he imagines.

* Don Pedro Calderona de la Barca, knight of the order of St. Jago, and canon of Toledo, famous for the excellent comedies he has written.

gines. Calderona ſurpaſſed all thoſe that went before him, except Lopez de Vega, whoſe excellencies he equalled. Our Engliſh play-writers, ſaid I, have borrowed often from Lopez de Vega—Lopez, anſwered the knight, compoſed eighteen hundred pieces for the ſtage in verſe; beſides many other works, which ſhew the fruitfulneſs of his genius. It was he who taught the Spaniards to divide their plays into three acts. before his time, virtuous perſons could not go to the theatre; where there was nothing to be ſeen but actions contrary to modeſty and decorum. Vice was rendered agreeable, and virtue turned into ridicule. But the excellent Lopez de Vega reformed the theatre. He uſed to ſay, that jeſting upon virtuous characters was not to be ſuffered upon the ſtage. There is now nothing exhibited contrary to good manners. And ſince his time have flouriſhed ſeveral excellent authors; as Montalvenez; Mendoza; Rojas Alarcones; Velez; Mira de Meſcuas; Cœllos; Villaizanes.

In the mean time the king came to his box; and the play began. Meleſinda, who had read ſome ſcenes in the piece, in order to know ſomething of it, ſent it to

us

us by Cœurleon, who was in waiting on the king.

I cannot omit mentioning an honour paid to the counteſs Meleſinda. The king being informed who ſhe was, ſent her ſome ſweetmeats by Cœurleon, and hoped he ſhould ſee her at court.

At the repreſentation of this play all the latices were thrown open, and the aſſembly appeared in the greateſt ſplendour.

The two actreſſes, who played the two principal parts, were admirable. They had grace and dignity, and their voices were more moving than the ſofteſt inſtruments of muſic. And ſtill more, the knight aſſured me, that neither of them had the leaſt blemiſh upon her character.

CHAP. XVI.

THE Caſa del Campo is not great, but its ſituation is fine, being upon the banks of the Manſanarez. The trees are high, and yield ſhade at all times. There are ſeveral pieces of water, particularly one fine one, ſurrounded with oaks of an immenſe ſtature.

Hic gelidi fontes, hic mollia prata, Lycori,
Hic nemus, ———
Here are cool fountains, and here flow'ry meads,
And groves ſtill flouriſhing with pleaſant ſhades.

Here in one part you may ſee lions, tygers, and other wild beaſts.

Here groans of bears are heard, and, in diſdain,
The roars of lions, that refuſe the chain.

In the calm part of the rural ſcene, the ladies chuſe to walk, becauſe the place is leſs frequented than others.

Here alſo lovers and poets enjoy ſweet muſings.

Baron Swenitz tranſlated into Engliſh, for the counteſs Meleſinda, ſome Spaniſh verſes made upon this fine ſolitude, by one of the gentlemen of the king's bedchamber, who was, it ſeems, in love with the beautiful Melinda de Villa-galante, one of the maids of honour to the queen.

On

On the ſolitude of Caſa del Campo.

Sweet Solitude, where I delight
To hide me from all human ſight!
Of contemplation charming ſeat,
From troubling paſſions kind retreat!
With what calm pleaſure I behold
Theſe noble trees as nature old?
By ages long with rev'rence ſeen,
Still flouriſhing with lively green!
How beautiful thoſe hanging mountains,
Whence in caſcades the lucent fountains
Fall on the daſhing rock below,
Thence, winding through the valley, flow!
Here various birds that haunt the ſtream,
Along the liquid cryſtal ſwim,
Or flutter round the guſhing ſprings,
And plunge their gloſſy necks and wings.
Theſe living ſtreams, ſo pure and ſweet,
Ne'er felt the froſt, nor ſummer's heat:
Here ſportive fiſh you may behold
With ſilver ſcales adorn'd, or gold.
That ruin, which ſtill tow'rs ſublime,
A caſtle was in antient time;
Of former greatneſs it retains
As yet, ſome, tho' obſcure, remains.
See o'er the walls the ivy creep,
There the loan owl in verdure deep,
Slumb'ring, ſhuns the ſolar ray,
Till the ſtars ſummon her away.
Here fragrant winds have ever play'd,
And nightingales ſtill charm the ſhade;
Here viſitants celeſtial come
In dreams, and muſic fills the gloom.
Here when her ſteps Amana bent,
Of nature beauteous ornament!

The freſh'ning groves her paths perfum'd,
Each bough with livelier odours bloom'd.
Amana, my divineſt muſe,
Did rapture in my breaſt infuſe;
Her eyes a luſtre did unfold,
Which my dull thoughts refin'd to gold.

The Florida alſo is a moſt pleaſant houſe, and its gardens delightful. In it are a great number of Italian ſtatues by the beſt Maſters. The waters there make a fine murmur, the birds an enchanting melody, which with the odours of flowers, of which there is a large collection of the ſweeteſt fragrancy, charm the ſenſes. In this place I remember that I made the following obſervation to Meleſinda.

As the fancy, ſaid I, delights in every thing that is great, ſtrange, or beautiful, and is ſtill more pleaſed the more it finds of theſe perfections in the ſame object, ſo it is capable of receiving a new ſatisfaction by the aſſiſtance of another ſenſe. Thus any continued ſound, as the muſic of birds, or a fall of water, awakens every moment the mind of the beholder, and makes him more attentive to the ſeveral beauties of the place that lie before him. Thus if there ariſes a fragrancy of ſmells or perfumes, as in this place—they make even the colours and verdure of the landſcape appear

appear more agreeable; for the idea of both ſenſes recommend each other, and are pleaſanter together, than when they enter the mind ſeparately: as the different colours of a picture, when they are well diſpoſed, ſet off one another, and receive an additional beauty from the advantage of their ſituation.

So much for the royal palaces: it is time to ſay ſomething of the churches and convents.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

THE church of Atocha is a very fine one. It ſtands within a grand convent. Here the kings of Spain ſing Te Deum.

The image of the bleſſed virgin is a brunette, in curious coloured marble. She is richly adorned, and crowned with a radiant circle, like the ſun, whoſe beams dazzle your ſight, they ſhine ſo refulgently. Her chapel is on one ſide of the body of the church, and illuminated with an hundred lamps of gold and ſilver, continually burning before her. The king has a gallery there, whoſe front is ſhut up with a gilt lattice.

We went to this church, on a grand feſtival, to hear ſome fine muſic, and the patriarch of the Indies preach. He was an intimate friend of the knight of Calatrava, who told us that he had formerly been prelate of Albano, but had been deprived of his mitre, for having advanced ſome doctrines, that ſtruck at the ſupremacy of the triple crown, and the infallibility of the ſovereign pontif; as likewiſe for teaching, that one ray of the ſun contained virtually the whole ſubſtacne, properties and qualities

ties of it. To this he compared the celeſtial tabernacle or ſhechinah of the Word, which, he held, diffuſed its beams throughout the immenſe regions of the univerſe, (as the ſun ſpreads its radiance through our ſyſtem) to vivify ſouls, and render them fruitful, glorious, and immortal; that without the rays of that tabernacle or celeſtial body, there was no life in them, but that they faded, withered and died. Don de los Torres, added that he was a man of univerſal benevolence: that with regard to civil government, he held ariſtocracy, oligarchy, monarchic deſpotiſm, as monſters, not to be endured under the ſun: in a word, that he was a zealous and warm friend to the natural rights and liberties of mankind: and that he always ſought out modeſt merit to the end of the world, in order to reward it.

He concluded with telling us that this prelate, whoſe name was ſignor Maſinez, upon his diſgrace was come to Spain, his native country, where he had ſome friends. But what made moſt for him was an handſome ſiſter, who ſeemed pleaſing to one of the miniſters of ſtate. That ſhe had underhand, and unknown to her brother, in order to get him out of the way, uſed her

influence,

influence, and obtained for him the patriarchate of the Indies.

We were very curious to hear this good proteſtant prelate, as we may call him, and accordingly went with the knight. When a perſon of quality, or ſtranger of diſtinction comes into this church, a large carpet is ſpread before them, upon which is ſet an oratory with velvet cuſhions; or elſe they are conducted to certain little cloſets, painted and gilt, and which have windows of cryſtal glaſs all round.

The king was preſent. He was dreſt in black velvet, and wore a belt of gold and ſilk, ſet with little pearls, and faſtened with a buckle of topazes. I obſerved that during the ceremony, he ſeemed to eat ſomething, but I was told that it was only maſtic, which he chewed, being pleaſed with its flavour*.

The pulpit, where the patriarch aſcended, was very magnificent. Over it was repreſented a glory, with theſe words: "Whoever attemps to ſearch too far into the majeſty of God, will be oppreſſed by the ſplendour, which beams from it."

And beneath this inſcription was the following: "As natural fire refines gold, ſo does

* The Turkiſh ladies, like the Spaniſh king, chew maſtic to give a fragrant ſweetneſs to their breath.

does the flame of divine love refine our natures, and adorn and beautify our heavenly part."

The patriarch was a thin man, about the middle ſize, of a pleaſing, ſerene aſpect. He performed his functions with recollection, grace, and dignity, without affectation. In him the gentleman appeared even in the pulpit. His hair was naturally brown, but now a little changed; and when he officiated, was, according to the cuſtom of the Indies, poudered with gold duſt.

Diſcourſe of the INDIAN PATRIARCH.

The ſubject of the patriarch's diſcourſe was external, and internal religion: outward ceremonies, and ſanctification of heart.

With reſpect to the former, he told us, that the firſt chriſtians, in order to avoid being perſecuted by heathen prieſts and kings, aſſembled themſelves together in obſcure retreats. At length religion roſe in majeſty with the chriſtian emperors, who were aſhamed to inhabit proud and magnificent palaces, while the Moſt High had no temple ſuitable for his glory to dwell in. Hence ſumptuous ſtructures were gradually erected,

erected, temples more worthy the majeſty of heaven: as was foretold by the prophet; "Behold kings ſhall be thy nurſing-fathers, and their queens thy nurſing-mothers; they ſhall bow down to thee with their face towards the earth." He ſaid, that ceremonies though they were not the eſſential of religion, yet were a neceſſary part of it. That if the affections of our hearts were once warmed towards heaven, we ſhould not be ſatisfied, till we had, by ſome outward performances, teſtified our love and admiration of the divine majeſty. That nothing would ſeem too great, too pompous to adorn the worſhip of the great King of kings. That theſe ceremonies ought not to be trifling, inſignificant, and mean, but ought to be all ſignificant, and to have a certain pomp and ſolemnity in them, capable at once of conveying heavenly ideas to the mind, and ſtriking upon the imagination. For he added, that nothing was more evident, than that while men are attached to the objects of ſenſe, it is needful they ſhould have ſome outward ſpectacle of ſolemnity and grandeur, to make them reverence the inviſible majeſty of the divinity. That this ought to be afforded them in the ceremonies of religion:

Praiſe

Praiſe him with the harp; ſing unto him with an inſtrument of ten ſtrings.

The next ſubject of the patriarch's diſcourſe, was ſanctification of heart.

Among ſeveral excellent things, he ſaid, that ſanctification of heart was recommended throughout the ſacred books. That in the antient, it was repreſented under ſeveral figures and emblems. That when the buſh burned with fire, yet was unconſumed, from whence a voice came to Moſes, forbidding him to approach it, without taking off his ſandals, for the ground was holy; under the figure of that bodily action of putting off his ſandals, was repreſented to him, that inward purity and ſanctity, which men ought to have, before they preſume to turn their looks towards the divinity.

The rich furniture of the temple; the golden branches and burning lamps; the ſacred fire; the incenſe; the ablutions and ſplendid garments; were emblems of prayer, of fervency, of ſanctity, to remind the true worſhippers with what bright virtues they ſhould be adorned.

The precious gems on Aaron's breaſtplate ſignified the ſame; as likewiſe the Urim and Thummim, which denoted light and perfection.

After

After this he proceeded to tell us what ſanctification of heart was.

There is, ſaid he, an interior light ever preſent with us, which ſhews us concerning our actions, what we ought to do or what to avoid; which approves our actions or condems them, according as they are conformable to its notices; and which being more or leſs lively and luminous in certain moments, diſcovers to us, more or leſs evidently, the path we ought to purſue. This divine irradiation may be obſcured and darkened by the clouds of corrupt paſſions. Theſe not only obſcure the natural light of our underſtanding, but they alſo intercept thoſe heavenly beams, which are always ſtreaming forth from the ſupreme glory upon minds fitted to receive them. They are called rays of divine effluence, emanations from the divinity; a ſuperior light to that of natural reaſon. A truly ſanctified heart therefore is an heart free from thoſe bad paſſions, which intercept theſe rays; an heart like gold, when it is purified from droſs.

After much more to the ſame exellent purpoſe, he mentioned the reward promiſed to ſuch a heart.

He ſaid, we might ſtretch our imaginations to their utmoſt extent; that we might put

put together all the glorious objects, all the felicities, we had either ſeen, heard or read of, and that we might promiſe ourſelves all thoſe, and infinitely greater. What crowns, what kingdoms, what powers, what delights, (he cried out as with rapture) may not we have beſtowed upon us by his munificence, whoſe boundleſs power has ſcattered the ſtars of heaven through the immenſe regions of ſpace with ſuch profuſion and magnificence! Yet the poſſeſſion of all theſe will be as nothing, in compariſon of that tranſport, with which the good ſhall be repleniſhed by the ſight of the divine original of all beauty. What words can expreſs that fulneſs of joy derived from the fountain of happineſs! All that is beauteous, glorious and reſplendent in the whole univerſe, is but a faint ſhadow of the divine original. The bleſt, like ſtars about their eternal central ſun, will draw from thence, by communication, glory, immortality, and ineffable joy.

He concluded with an ardent wiſh, that his audience, even amidſt the indiſpenſible employments of life, might ever bear within their boſoms a ſecret flame, which might nouriſh thoſe celeſtial affections, which are as the lamps perpetually burning before the golden altar.

The

The ſermon being ended, the proceſſion began. Proceſſions here are always very magnificent.

The ſtreet was hung with rich tapeſtries. All the balconies were adorned with ſplendid canopies, fine cuſhions and carpets. All the way was covered from the tops of the houſes to ſhut out the beams of the ſun; and under foot, was ſtrewed with flowers, ſhowered from the balconies.

The canopy for the pix was of crimſon velvet embroidered with gold. It was covered with ſhagreen, and nailed with gold nails. It had ſeveral plates of cryſtal about it, and in the midſt of the roof was a kind of ſteeple, full of little golden bells. Several muſical inſtruments played before it.

——The inſtruments of muſic ſound,
And tuneful ſymphony is heard around.
The fair from high the paſſing pomp behold,
A rain of flow'rs is from the windows roll'd;
Balconies are with golden tiſſue ſpread.

CHAUCER.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

AFTER all the ceremony was over, we went with the knight to take a turn in the neighbouring walks. For at this place are abundance of fine walks made of green turf, and enamelled with flowers. There are ſeveral fountains, whoſe waters fall into baſons of ſilver, of fine marble, or porphery, under the ſhade of a variety of trees of thick foliage.

After ſome turns up and down the walks, we ſate down by one of the fountains, and the diſcourſe turned upon the patriarch's manner of preaching. The counteſs profeſſed to me, that ſhe admired him, though he was not a cittern. But the knight took the occaſion to honour his friend the patriarch with an encomium; and began in the following manner.

There are two ſorts of preachers, the one good, the other excellent.

They who have no vivacity, nor a poetical genius, may explain the ſacred ſcriptures perſpicuouſly, without imitating their lively, noble manner; and if they expound them with judgment, and ſupport their doctrine by their example, they are very good preachers. They will, or ought to have,

have, a chaſte, ſimple, clear ſtile, full of weight and gravity; without affecting elegance, or deſpiſing the ſmoothneſs and graces of language.

The other ſort having a poetical turn of mind, will explain the ſcriptures in their own ſtile and figures, and by that means become accompliſhed preachers. One ſort would inſtruct the people with clearneſs, force, and dignity; the other would add to theſe, the ſublimity, the enthuſiaſm, and vehemence of the ſacred writings. So that, if I may ſo ſpeak, they would be entire and living in them, as much as they can be in men, who are not miraculouſly inſpired. I take the patriarch of the Indies to be of this latter ſort.

In the next place, every orator is a painter, and every excellent orator an excellent painter

The eſſential rules of eloquence may be reduced to theſe three points; proving, painting, and moving the paſſions.

In order to eſtabliſh any truth, an orator ſhould know how to enlighten the underſtanding, while he moves the paſſions; and to act at once upon all the powers of the mind, not only by placing truth in ſo clear light, as to gain attention and aſſent, but likewiſe by moving all the ſecret ſprings

of

of the ſoul, to make it love that truth, of which it is convinced. In a word, he ſhould have his mind filled with the moſt bright, uſeful truths, and the moſt noble exalted views.

That he may be able to paint or deſcribe well, he ſhould have a poetic kind of enthuſiaſm; and know how to employ beautiful figures, lively images, and bold touches, when the ſubject requires them: but this art ought to be entirely concealed; or if it muſt appear, it ſhould ſeem to be a juſt copy of nature. All ſuch falſe ornaments as ſerve only to pleaſe the ear with harmonious ſounds, and the imagination with ideas, that are more gay and ſparkling than juſt and ſolid, ſhould be rejected.

To move the paſſions, every truth ſhould be ſet in its proper place, and ſo connected, that the firſt may make way for the ſecond; and the next ſupport the former; ſo that the diſcourſe ſhall gradually advance in ſtrength and clearneſs, till the hearers perceive the whole weight and force of the truth. And then the preacher ought to diſplay it in the livelieſt images; and both in his words and pronunciation uſe all thoſe affecting modulations that are proper to expreſs the paſſions he would excite.

There

There ought to be a variety of ſtile in every diſcourſe. A preacher ſhould riſe in his expreſſion, when he ſpeaks of lofty ſubjects, and be familiar in common ones, without being coarſe or grovelling. In moſt caſes an eaſy ſimplicity and exactneſs is ſufficient. Though ſome things require vehemence and ſublimity, they are not always to be made uſe of. If a painter ſhould draw nothing but magnificent palaces, he would not follow truth, but paint his own fancies, and by that means ſoon cloy us. He ought to copy nature in its agreeable varieties; and after drawing a ſtately city, it may be proper to repreſent a deſart, and the hutts of ſhepherds. Moſt of thoſe who aim at making fine diſcourſes, injudiciouſly labour to cloath all their thoughts in a pompous gaudy dreſs; and then fancy, that they have ſucceeded happily, when they expreſs ſome general obſervations in a florid lofty ſtile. Their only care is to fill their diſcourſe with abundance of ornaments, to pleaſe the vitiated taſte of their audience; like ignorant cooks, who know not how to ſeaſon diſhes in a proper natural way, but fancy they muſt give them an exquiſite reliſh, by mixing exceſſive quantities of the moſt ſeaſoning things: as he did, who ſtuffed a peacock with ſuch a quantity

quantity of aromatic, that when it was dreſt and carved, it almoſt over-powered the gueſts with its perfumes*.

But the ſtile of the Indian patriarch has nothing that is ſwelling or oſtentatious. He always adapts it to the ſubjects he treats of, and the perſons he inſtructs, and manages it ſo judiciouſly, that ſometimes he has all the ſweetneſs of an eclogue in the ſmiling images he gives us; and ſometimes he ſoars ſo high, as to leave all things below him. In a word, he never aims at being ſublime and lofty, but when he ought to be ſo.

Did you obſerve his judgment, in reminding his audience of thoſe paſſages of ſacred hiſtory, which explained the origin and inſtitution of holy things? This way of having recourſe to the firſt foundations of religion, gave his diſcourſe that force and beauty which is generally wanted. This is particularly true with regard to the myſteries of religion; for the hearers can never be inſtructed, nor be perſuaded, if the preacher does not trace things back to their ſource.

* The king of Tunis, when he came to Valentia to viſit the Emperor Charles V. treated him with a peacock: the dreſſing of which coſt him an hundred piſtoles.

See Montaigne.

I ſhall only obſerve further, that he has in his diſcourſes, none of thoſe witty turns ſo common in others; and which have nothing in them either ſolid, natural or affecting; and that tends either to convince, paint, or perſuade. Such kind of ornaments is like one of our old Gothic buildings. Obſerve the roſes, holes, unconnected ornaments, and disjointed little knacks, of which our Gothic cathedrals are full. Theſe odd conceits are juſt ſuch beauties in architecture as turns of wit are in eloquence. The Grecian architecture is far more ſimple, and admits of none but natural, ſolid, and majeſtic ornaments. We ſee nothing in it but what is great, proportioned, and well placed. But the Gothic kind was invented by the arabians, who being a people of a quick ſprightly fancy, and having no rule, nor culture, could ſcarce avoid falling into theſe whimſical niceties. And this vivacity corrupted their taſte in all other things. For they uſed ſophiſms in their reaſonings: they loved little knacks in architecture, and invented witticiſms in poetry and eloquence; all theſe are of the ſame kind.—But I am afraid I have tired you with this long diſcourſe.—Though you ſhould ſpeak a great while longer upon this ſubject, replied Meleſinda,

I

I ſhould rejoice at hearing you; ſuch is the pleaſure I have received from it. It now being time to go to our dinner, we got up from our ſeat near the fountain, and returned home.

CHAP. XIX.

THere are convents in Spain where the nuns entertain their friends and relations with no leſs livelineſs of converſation and gaiety than the women of no order. Some of theſe ladies are of high rank and dignity.

At Laſhnelgos de Burgos, there are an hundred and fifty nuns, moſt of them daughters of princes, dukes, and grandees.

The Donne of St. Jago, like the knights of that order, have on their cloaks, which are white, a croſs embroidered with crimſon ſilk, on a golden ground.

Their houſes are very ſtately. All who come to viſit them, have admittance into the apartments, which are finely furniſhed. They enjoy great penſions, and each lady has three or four women to wait on her.

Don de los Torres ſaid he would introduce us to one of theſe ladies, of whom he

gave us the following character. He ſaid, that wit in that beautiful lady, was a diamond ſet to the beſt advantage; and all who talk of her, added he, find ſomething in her wit ſo rational, and of ſuch fine and delicate taſte, that they can hardly diſtinguiſh their admiration from love. With all the qualities adapted to a perfect friendſhip, ſhe has charms wherewith to make other impreſſions. Too blooming and beautiful not to pleaſe, but too modeſt to affect it. Her vivacity and ſentiments ſurpriſe and charm. She underſtands all the delicacies and refinements of converſation; and wants nothing but a ſpacious theatre, for the diſplay of all her endowments in their full luſtre.

This account of ſo charming a lady, gave us great deſire to viſit her. Accordingly the knight on a grand feſtival introduced us to her in the afternoon.

She received us with infinite politeneſs, and by her behaviour and perſon confirmed every thing the knight had ſaid of her. She ſeemed to me one of thoſe women, who are of ſuch perfect beauty, and ſuch tranſcendent merit, that though it is impoſſible for us not to love them, yet we dare not encourage our paſſion to hope for any greater favour, than that of ſeeing them

them and converſing with them. And ſhe was a living inſtance of what has often been ſaid, that a beautiful woman with the qualities of an accompliſhed man, is, of all the converſations in the world, the moſt delicious. She was of high rank, being of the family of the Lunas of Caſtile, whoſe name ſhe bore; and ſhe enjoyed a yearly penſion of ten thouſand ducats of gold. She was often viſited by people of quality, and men of learning; the latter of whom had no ſmall ſhare in her purſe; but her bounties were all private, and without oſtentation.

While we were with her, there came in a young cavalier, named Don de Lunas, her couſin; and two court ladies, called Donna Clarinda and Donna Stella.

The converſation turned upon ſeveral entertaining ſubjects, in which Donna de Lunas did not affect any ſhew of wit or learning. She adopted the thoughts of the company, enlarged on them, and embelliſhed them, ſo that the perſons ſhe happened to diſcourſe with, were extreamly pleaſed with themſelves, and wondered not a little at their having ſaid ſo many fine things.

Don de Lunas produced a romance, which he ſaid he had, for its pleaſantneſs,

purchaſed of thoſe people, who go about at Madrid ſinging romances or hiſtories with a tabor and pipe. He made a preſent of it to Meleſinda. Then he told us that there were at Madrid ſeveral houſes, which were a ſort of academies, where people met for converſation, and which were frequented by very ingenious perſons and entertaining writers. What they call novels, ſaid he, are ſometimes extreamly charming. They never advance any thing, but what is probable. Their ſubjects are all well managed; their ſtile is conciſe and ſimple, neither mean nor too elevated.

Romances in my opinion, ſaid De los Torres, may be made as uſeful as they are often pernicious: they exhibit many great examples of conſtancy, virtue, tenderneſs, valour and patriotiſm; ſo many fine and perfect characters, that when young perſons turn the proſpect to the living world, finding nothing but unworthy objects, very much below what they ſo admired, it is ſtrange how they can be ſuſceptible of the leaſt weakneſs for them. Clarinda and Stella ſaid many pretty things upon this head: at length Donna de Lunas took the word, and ſaid, that her couſin De Lunas, if he pleaſed, could divert the counteſs Meleſinda

leſinda with the hiſtory of his own adventures, which had very much the air of a romance. Meleſinda immediately entreated him to give her the relation. Young Don de Lunas anſwered, that he was afraid the company would not find the narration ſo entertaining; but that the counteſs Meleſinda had no occaſion for entreaties, where ſhe might ſo effectually command. The counteſs bowed her head: and he, perceiving us all attentive, began in a very pleaſing voice and agreeable manner.

CHAP. XX.

The HISTORY of

DON DE LUNAS.

I Am the ſon of the Condee de Lunas. My father growing old retreated to a fine houſe, which he had on the banks of the Erema, where he ſpared no coſt in my education. As he was of a younger branch of the De Lunas, he had made the greateſt part of his fortune himſelf, ſo I was unacquainted with what riches he was poſſeſſed of, and he always, for good reaſons, endeavoured to make me believe, that they were not ſo great as I might imagine.

I naturally loved pleaſure and expence. My father tried to change my diſpoſition by wholeſome advice; but I imputed all his counſels to the love old age too frequently has for gold, which it cannot enjoy.

As

As we were one day walking on the borders of the Erema, he told me that he ſaw his counſels were troubleſome to me, and therefore he would deliver me from them, and leave me in poſſeſſion of his houſe and fortune, reſerving only a ſmall portion for his maintenance in the Braſils, where he was going.

I ſeemed afflicted at what he ſaid, but he having ſettled his affairs, delayed no longer; but, in a few days, embarked for the Braſils, as I imagined; and twenty thouſand ducats of gold, and his fine houſe which he left me, ſoon conſoled me. I augmented the number of my ſervants; I got about me all the young men of quality I could, as extravagant as myſelf. We diverted ourſelves night and day together. My table was laviſhly ſpread with meats and wines of the moſt exquiſite kinds. Mirth, muſic, feaſting, and dancing was the whole employment of my life. In about ſix months, news was brought me by a merchant of Valentia, that the Condee my father was dead, and had left little behind him. This did not put a ſtop to my profuſion, and I continued to live, as if the ſource of my pleaſure was inexhauſtible. In ſhort, in leſs than three years I waſted my whole fortune. My companions, find-

ing I could no longer treat them ſo magnificently as formerly, all abandoned me, and I experienced how little that friendſhip is to be relied on, which is not founded upon virtue. The next thing I did, was to mortgage my fine houſe for a ſum of money, for I might not ſell it. With that ſum I reſolved to go live in ſome foreign country, where I was unknown, for I was aſhamed to appear before my relations.

While I was conſidering where I ſhould retreat, and had not yet come to any determination, two merchants of Valentia, one of whom had made the report to me of the Condee my father's death, came and told me they had heard how I been obliged to part with my fine houſe, and had greatly hurt my fortune: and that out of friendſhip to the Condee my father, they were come to make me an offer to take me into partnerſhip with them, in a voyage they were going to make to the Levant; and that my profits ſhould be in proportion to the ſum I could furniſh. I was charmed with the propoſal, as it might be a means to enrich me again.

We ſoon had freighted a ſhip, and all three embarked for the Levant. We had a very fatiguing voyage and rough ſeas; at length however we got within ſight of the cre-

creſcents of Alexandria. Here my partners ordered the ſhip to come to an anchor; and getting out the boat we went aſhore, about two leagues from the town, to refreſh ourſelves. We pitched a tent, and continued feaſting for two days. The ſecond day at night, we had drank ſo much Greek wine, that I did not waken till very late the next morning; when to my aſtoniſhment, I found myſelf alone. My partners were gone, and the ſhip by the whiteneſs of her ſails only could be diſcovered at a diſtance cleaving the green waves. You can better gueſs at the ſituation of my mind than I deſcribe it. I accuſed the innocent ſtars a thouſand times for my partner's perfidiouſneſs. However, I did not deſpair. I ſet forward for the city, and entered it with only ten gold ducats in my purſe. As ſoon as I had hired a lodging, I went to the port, and enquired for ſome ſhips bound for Spain; but was told that none would be ready in leſs than ſix months. What could I do? I had neither friends nor credit. In a little time, of my ten ducats, I had but one remaining, I changed this laſt piece of gold, and bought trinkets, balms and ſweetmeats, by ſelling of which I propoſed to gain a ſubſiſtence, till I could embark for Spain. You will think this a very

very ſtrange reſolution, but I could think of nothing better at that time. But to proceed—At Alexandria there are hollow places of the ſhore, which are made uſe of for pleaſure-houſes. Some jutting rocks form a delightful ſituation, and natural grottoes, adorned by art with ſeveral ſorts of ſhells, nacre, and other pretty ornaments. There are divers of theſe grottoes, that contain four or five apartments, in ſome of which you may bathe in the water of the ſea, that fills the bottom of the room, which is generally paved with a certain muſk or coffee-coloured ſtone ſprinkled with ſpeckles of gold. On the outſide of theſe grottoes you are ſhaded from the heat of the ſun by clumps of fruit trees and others, that grow naturally there. Here, and in the pleaſure-houſes, people of faſhion of ſeveral nations entertain themſelves with muſic, and enjoy the coolneſs of the ſea-breezes in that hot climate.

To theſe pleaſure-houſes came I with my ſmall merchandizes, and preſented them round to every one. Each took what he liked of them, and gave me ſome ſmall piece of ſilver. This trade ſupplied me with a convenient ſubſiſtence for a month.

One day there was ſitting in an obſcure corner of the room, an old man, who had eſcaped

eſcaped my notice, though very remarkable. He was dreſt in a ſhort cloak of black taffata, edged with gold. He wore a rich jewel in his cap, and his beard was ſhort, and curled and white as ſilver, but his complexion was extreamly tawny. He ſeeing that I did not addreſs myſelf to him, called to me, Friend, ſaid he in Spaniſh, how comes it that you paſs me by, and do not offer to me ſome of your wares, as well as to others? Signor, I replied, I do aſſure you that I ſaw you not. He then aſked me who I was, and what was my name? Excuſe me, ſignor, ſaid I, if I am unwilling to gratify your curioſity. I cannot oblige you therein without renewing griefs, which I would have time wear out of my mind. He ſaid no more, but changed the diſcourſe, and after a ſhort converſation, riſing up to go away, he took out of his purſe ten ſequins of gold, which he put into my hand. I was ſurpriſed at this liberality of his, and knew not what to think of him.

The next day I went to the ſame place, where I found my benefactor again; who then ſo earneſtly urged me to tell him my fortunes, that I could not deny him. I related to him every circumſtance of my life; my father's kindneſs, my own indiſcretion

and

and extravagance, and ruin: together with the treachery of my merchants. When I had made an end, not without ſome tears, he ſpoke to me thus: I knew your father, he was my friend; and I have conceived a kindneſs and a friendſhip for you. Therefore be comforted, and if you recall to mind your paſt behaviour, let it be only in order to conduct yourſelf with more prudence for the future. I adopt you for my ſon, and you ſhall find in me a father rich as the Condee, and who will love you with as great tenderneſs. I made my grateful acknowledgements to him for his munificence, with tokens of the moſt profound reſpect. That evening he took me along with him to a grand houſe where he lived. He aſſigned me an apartment, and ordered a variety of rich habits to be brought me. In a word, ſuch was his kindneſs, that I imagined the Condee my father to be ſtill living in him.

On my part, I made it my ſtudy to pleaſe my venerable benefactor, who ſeemed on his to be charmed with the complaiſance of my temper. He would often ſay to me, De Lunas, I think myſelf happy to have met with you. To me you appear worthy of all I have done for you.

I was

I was ſo ſenſibly touched with his goodneſs towards me, that far from abuſing it, I prevented his deſires in every thing, which I thought would be agreeable to him, and ſeldom ever quitted him.

We lived in this manner for above a year: when one day he took me into his own apartment, and ſpoke to me in the following manner. "It is now time, my ſon, to reveal an important ſecret to you. The report of your father's death was falſe: the Condee is ſtill living; would you be glad to ſee him again? To this at firſt I made no reply, but with ſome tears; at length I ſaid, Could I but ſee my father, it would compleat my felicity. At theſe words he embraced me tenderly, and ſaid ——I am that father, my ſon, whom you wiſh to ſee.——While I remained ſtupid with aſtoniſhment, he went aſide and waſhed his face with a certain perfumed water, and ſuddenly the deep bronze of his complexion diſappeared, and I immediately knew him. The ſtrange alteration of his complexion, and his ſilver beard which he had let grow, made it impoſſible for me to know him before he diſcovered himſelf to me. He told me, that every thing that happened to me with reſpect to the merchants of Valentia, had been by his con-

contrivance: that he had ſuffered me to ruin myſelf by my extravagance, to try, if experience of want and falſe friendſhips, would alter my diſpoſition: in fine, that he had watched over me from firſt to laſt."

——Joy and ſurpriſe ſtopped my words, and I remained ſilent for ſome time. I felt all his goodneſs, and my heart overflowed with gratitude and affection. I flew into his arms, and ſhed a flood of tears of joy. The mutual demonſtrations of our affection, are, I think, ſcarce to be conceived, much leſs deſcribed. My father in a day or two bought a veſſel, and we returned both of us to Spain. He made me maſter of all his wealth, which was great. He introduced me to court, and I was made grand chamberlain to the queen. The Condee, my father, has ſince retreated to the ſolitude of Monſerat, where he now lives. *

Here

* Monſerat, (according to an account I had from Lord B***) is a mountain ſituated near Barcelona. It ſeems as if the rock were ſawn through the midſt. There is a monaſtery and a chapel, which ſtands high, but of ſmall extent. However, it is richly adorned. It is full of very fine painted glaſs windows.

The ſtoried windows richly dight,
Caſting a dim religious light.

Here Don de Lunas concluded his entertaining relation; and Meleſinda ſaid to him; Really, ſignor de Lunas, the novelty of your ſtrange adventures is equalled by your agreeable manner of relating them.

Your

By the light of an hundred lamps you ſee a Madonna eſteemed miraculous. The altar coſt King Phillip the Second, fifteen thouſand ducats of gold. Here are every day ſeen pilgrims from all parts of the world, almoſt as many as go to Loretto.

The monaſtery is inhabited by monks of ſeveral nations, who entertain all that come there out of devotion or curioſity, for three days together.

Above the monaſtery are a number of beautiful hermitages, hewn out of the rock, and inhabited by perſons of diſtinction, who being weary of the world, have retired there to ſpend their time in devotion, and enjoy the charms of that retreat. There are ſeveral agreeable objects, a curious proſpect, various ſprings, gardens well dreſt by the hermits own hands, and every where a certain air of ſolitude and devotion, which mightily affects thoſe who come there. The place all together, and the inhabitants of it, puts one in mind of the bard's wiſh ——

And may at laſt my weary age
Find out the peaceful hermitage,
The ſolemn gown and moſſy cell,
Where I may ſit and rightly ſpell
Of ev'ry ſtar that heav'n doth ſhew,
And ev'ry herb that ſips the dew;
Till old experience do attain
To ſomething like prophetic ſtrain.

MILTON'S PENSOROSO.

Your ſtory is uncommon, ſurpriſing, and full of incidents, that keep the hearers in admiration and ſuſpenſe; and I have received infinite pleaſure from it.

When this compliment was paſſed, in which we all joined, we prepared to take leave of Donna de Lunas. We all roſe from our ſeats, when the two ladies, Donna Clarinda and Donna Stella, propoſed to us to go upon a party the next morning, about three leagues from Madrid, to ſee the royal obſervatory, where Don de los Torres's brother was chief aſtronomer. We ſaid that we ſhould be glad of the excurſion, as we had heard that the place was remarkable for its ſituation and curious ſtructure, and ſhould alſo be glad to viſit the knight's brother. Don de los Torres ſaid, that he would take care that evening to give his brother notice of our coming. We thanked him, and having taken leave of the ladies, Don de Lunas attended the counteſs Meleſinda home, where Cœurleon engaged him to ſup with us, and we ſpent the evening with great chearfulneſs; but Cœurleon complained the next morning, of his ſiſter Meleſinda's having made him drink too much alicant.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

NOW when the roſy-finger'd Morning fair,
Reſulgent ris'n from Tithon's ſaffron bed,
Had ſpread her purple robe through dewy air,
And the high hills Titan diſcovered:———

We all got up, and after a ſhort breakfaſt went to the Prado Nuovo to meet the ladies and the knight of Calatrava, according to appointment. We found them there walking under the trees, and taking the freſh morning air, having alighted from their voiture.

The Prado Nuovo has ſeveral fountains, and trees of an extraordinary height. This walk, though the ground is uneven, is not the leſs agreeable, the deſcent is ſo eaſy.

After ſalutations, and commendations of the fineneſs of the morning, we all, except Cœurleon, who rode on a mule beſide, got into a large open voiture of Clarinda's, and ſet forward for the obſervatory or diſpenſary, for it was both. We ſaw it at a great diſtance before we came to it. And while we were admiring, as we went along the charming heath over which we drove, the

the beauty of the proſpect, now gilded by the early beams of the morning, and the ſeveral wild animals, which we ſaw diſporting around us, Donna Clarinda ſaid to us, How admirable are the uſes of light! By it all the animal creation is enabled to wander here and there, as their pleaſure or choice directs. Through its aſſiſtance, we behold with admiration and pleaſure the glories of the heavens; the beauties of the flowery fields; the gay attire of the feathered inhabitants of the groves; the delightful landſcapes of divers countries. How charming are its teints in yonder clouds!

The hand that formed the creation, ſaid Don de los Torres, has made ſo many beautiful objects, that he might render the whole creation more gay and delightful. He has given almoſt every thing about us a power of raiſing agreeable ideas in our minds; ſo that it is impoſſible for us to behold his works with coldneſs or indifference, and to ſurvey ſo many beauties without a ſecret ſatisfaction and complacency. Things would make but a poor appearance to the eye, if we ſaw them only in their proper figures and motions. But he has adorned and painted the univerſe,

to make it, by its pleaſing ſhews, more agreeable to our minds.

There is nothing that makes its way more directly to the ſoul than beauty, which immediately diffuſes a ſecret ſatisfaction and complacency through the imagination. The very firſt diſcovery of it ſtrikes the mind with an inward joy, and ſpreads a chearfulneſs and delight through all its faculties.

Beauty conſiſts either in the gaiety or variety of colours, in the ſymmetry and proportion of parts, in the arrangement and diſpoſition of bodies, or in a juſt mixture and concurrence of all together. Among theſe ſeveral kinds of beauty, the eye takes moſt delight in colours. We no where meet with a more glorious or pleaſing ſhow in nature, than what appears in the heavens, as at preſent, at the riſing; and at evening, at the ſetting of the ſun, which is wholly made up of thoſe different ſtains of light, that ſhew themſelves in yonder clouds of a different ſituation. O glorious light! The joy, the life, the ornament of the world.

Thou tide of glory, which no reſt doſt know,
But ever ebb and evet flow!
Thou golden ſhow'r of the true Jove
Diffuſing riches of his heav'nly love.

How

How wonderful is the ſwiftneſs of its motion! Its radiance comes in a moment to us, otherwiſe its energy would be abated; its beams would be leſs penetrating; and the ſhades of darkneſs with greater difficulty diſpelled.*

Here he left off ſpeaking, when the counteſs Meleſinda ſaid to him: Signor de los Torres, the ſubject you have entered upon is ſo entertaining and inſtructive, and ſuch the pleaſure I for my part have received from it, and your agreeable manner of diſcourſing upon it, that though you ſhould continue ſpeaking till evening, I ſhould rejoice at your beginning anew. We all joined in this compliment, and entreated him to proceed. He thanked us in the moſt courteous manner; and then, after a ſhort ſilence, ſpoke as follows.

CHAP.

* Eſpecially by the fainter lights of our ſublunary luminous bodies. For it is not only the ſun or the *fixt* ſtars, that are able thus to diſperſe light through the immenſe regions of the univerſe, but the ſmalleſt ſpark of any lucid body, even *that* ſtruck from a flint, muſt do the very ſame thing proportionably.

CHAP. XXII.

IN diſcourſing to you upon the works of nature, you are not to expect from me much order or arrangement of things; but only to have them juſt as they occur to my mind.——I love to ramble in a wood, ſaid Clarinda, better than to walk in a regular plantation: provided the objects I meet with are new to me and entertaining, that is ſufficient. I am of the ſame opinion with my ſiſter, ſaid Donna Stella, who had ſpoke but very little; irregularity and want of order are agreeable in men of learning and genius, who are often too full to be exact, and therefore chuſe to throw down their pearls in heaps, rather than be at the pains of ſtringing them.——Well then, anſwered Don de los Torres, I hope to pleaſe your fancy. All now being attentive, and the voiture moving very ſlow through the fragrant herbage of the heath, he proceeded in this manner:

There are ſcarce any writers, who more gratify and enlarge the imagination than the authors of the new philoſophy, whether we conſider their theories of the earth or heavens,

heavens, the diſcoveries they have made by glaſſes, or any other of their contemplations on nature. We are not a little pleaſed to find every green leaf ſwarm with millions of animals, that at their largeſt growth are not viſible to the naked eye. There is ſomething very engaging to the fancy, as well as to our reaſon, in the treatiſes of metals, minerals, plants, and meteors. But when we ſurvey the whole earth at once, and the ſeveral planets that lie within its neighbourhood, we are filled with a pleaſing aſtoniſhment, to ſee ſo many worlds hanging one above another, and ſliding round their axes in ſuch an amazing pomp and ſolemnity. If after this we contemplate thoſe wild fields of æther, that reach in height as far as from the planet Saturn to the *fixt* ſtars, and run abroad almoſt to infinitude, our imagination finds its capacity filled with ſo immenſe a proſpect, and puts itſelf upon the ſtretch to comprehend it. But if we yet riſe higher, and conſider the *fixt* ſtars as ſo many vaſt oceans of flame, that are each of them attended with a different ſet of planets, and ſtill diſcover new firmaments and new lights, that are ſunk farther in thoſe unfathomable depths of æther, ſo as not to be ſeen by the ſtrongeſt of our teleſcopes, we are loſt in ſuch a la-

labyrinth of ſuns and worlds, and confounded with the immenſity and magnificence of nature.

Then we may conſider how all theſe are held together in one glorious work by attraction.

Gravity, or attraction, is a tendency bodies have to their centre.

From the contemplation of the order, motion and coheſion of natural bodies, we find there is a mutual attraction between the moſt diſtant parts, at leaſt of this our ſolar ſyſtem.

All thoſe planets, that revolve round the ſun, are drawn towards each other, and towards the ſun, by the power of attraction or gravity. Hence it is, that without flying off in ſtraight lines, they on the contrary turn conſtantly round the ſun, as the Moon turns round the Earth, without once deſerting her in ſo many thouſand years.

And as the planetary ſyſtems are held in order by this attraction, ſo likewiſe it keeps the ſeveral planets from ſhattering to pieces, as they muſt evidently do, in a little time, by their ſwift turning round their own axes, but for this attraction, which cauſes the coheſion and conſiſtence of their ſeveral parts.

Let us now deſcend from thence to the circumambient element, that encompaſſes our planet, and which is ſo ſuited to receive light's irradiances. It is ſo ſubtle, ſo pure, ſo tranſparent, that the rays of the ſtars, though ſet in the heavens at an immenſe diſtance from us, pierce through it with their golden luſtre without difficulty, and in a moment ſtrike our eyes; and yet it has ſubſtance enough, we ſee, to ſupport its inhabitants, when they ſpread their painted wings upon it. By its ſpring it is proper for the breath of animals; by its motion, for cauſing ſounds; and for tranſmitting light by its tranſparency.

This noble element is likewiſe worthy our admiration for its uſe in adminiſtring to the enlightening of the world, by its *reflecting the light of the ſtars and planets to us; and refracting the beams of the ſun to our eyes before he riſes above our horizon: by which means the day is protracted through the whole globe, and the long and diſmal nights are ſhortened in the frigid zones, and day ſooner approaches them; the

*By reflecting on the light of the heavenly bodies, he meant that whiteneſs or lightſomneſs, which is in the air in the day-time, cauſed by the rays of light ſtriking upon the particles of the atmoſphere, as well as upon the clouds above, and the other objects

the ſun riſing in appearance, to the great comfort of thoſe deſolate habitations, when really he is abſent from them.

Trees, plants, and flowers owe their vegetation to it, as is manifeſt from their beauty and verdure in a free air, and their fading ſtate when excluded from it.

beneath upon the earth. To the ſame cauſe alſo we owe the twilight; namely, to the beams of the ſun touching the uppermoſt particles of our atmoſphere, which they do, when the ſun is about eighteen degrees beneath the horizon. And as the beams reach more and more the airy particles, ſo darkneſs goes off, and day-light comes on and increaſes.

For an example of this, the experiment may ſerve of tranſmitting a few rays, of the ſun through a ſmall hole into a dark room; by which means the rays, which meet with duſt, and other particles flying in the air, are rendered viſible; or, which amounts to the ſame, thoſe ſwimming ſmall bodies are rendered viſible, by their reflecting to the eye the light of the ſun-beams, which, without ſuch reflexion, would itſelf be inviſible.

By the refractive power of the air, the ſun and the other heavenly bodies ſeem higher than really they are, eſpecially near the horizon.

Though this inflective quality of the air be a great incumbrance and confuſion of aſtronomical obſervations, yet it is not without ſome conſiderable benefit to navigation; and indeed in ſome caſes, the benefit obtained by it is much greater than would be the benefit of having the ray proceed in an exact ſtraight line. One great advantage, amongſt others, I conſider ariſing from it, is the firſt diſcovery of land up-

The winds, which this noble element affords, prevent the air from ſtagnating, and ſo keep it healthful. Its fragrant gales fan us in the heat of ſummer: its clouds beſtow a refreſhing and pleaſant ſhade; and the ſilver dews and rich ſhowers, which deſcend from them, render the earth gay, flouriſhing, and full of fragrancy.

And here what a pleaſant ſcene preſents itſelf to our view! The vallies are cloathed with graſſy verdure; the fields are loaded with golden harveſts: here the hills riſe like an amphitheatre, and are covered with vineyards and fruit trees; and there mighty mountains, rearing their heads to the clouds, by ſending down rains and rivers, and fountains, give fruitfulneſs to the grounds below.

Herbs and plants to nouriſh our bodies, and remedy our diſeaſes; fragrant flowers, of

on the ſea; for by means of it, the tops of mountains and lands are raiſed up into the air, ſo as to be diſcoverable ſeveral leagues farther off on the ſea than they would be, were there no ſuch refraction; which is of great benefit to navigators for ſteering their courſe in the night, when they approach near land; and likewiſe for directing them in the day-time, much more certainly than the moſt exact celeſtial obſervations could do by the help of an uninfected ray, eſpecially in ſuch places, where they have no ſoundings.

of exquiſite colour and ſhape, to delight our ſmell, and gratify our ſight, we find in every field. How fine their clothing! white, ſcarlet, purple, carnation, crimſon, gold! how innumerable their ſorts! how beautiful their order!

But to proceed yet a ſtep farther—what a pleaſing and aſtoniſhing ſpectacle to ſee future plants in their ſeed, wrapt in ſuch elegant complications!

How admirable their variety, and texture of their leaves! finery, gaiety, and fragrancy of their flowers!

And as the perpetuity and ſafety of the ſpecies depend upon the ſafety of the ſeed and fruit in great meaſure, we may obſerve ſuch as dare to ſhew their heads during the rigorous ſeaſon, how ſecurely their flower, ſeed, or fruit, is locked up, during that ſeaſon, together with their leaves and branches, in their gems, and well fenced and covered with cloſe tunics.

And for ſuch who dare not ſo expoſe themſelves, with what ſafety are they preſerved under the coverture of the earth, in their root, ſeed or fruit, till invited out by the kindly warmth of ſpring!——

When Venus from her orb deſcends in ſhow'rs,
To glad the ground, and paint the fields with flow'rs,

When firſt the tender blades of graſs appear,
And buds that yet the blaſt of Eurus fear,
Stand at the door of life, and doubt to clothe the year.
Till gentle heat, and ſoft repeated rains,
Make the green blood to dance within their veins:
Then, at their call, embolden'd out they come,
And ſwell the gems, and burſt the narrow room;
Broader and broader yet, their blooms diſplay,
Salute the golden ſun, and entertain the day,
Then from their fragrant ſouls the ſweets repair,
With rich perfumes, t'mbalm the ambient air;
Joy ſpreads the heart, and with a general ſong
Spring iſſues out, and leads the dancing months along.

And when the whole vegetable race is thus called out, it is delightful to obſerve the methods of thoſe beauteous creatures, in guarding themſelves againſt harms and inconveniences. Some, for inſtance, lie down proſtrate; others cloſe themſelves upon the touch of animals, and the moſt ſhut up their flowers, their down, or other their like defence, upon the cloſe or cool of evening; and expand them again at morning to the chearing warm beams of the light; which another poet in his deſcription of a beauty weeping, thus introduces——

Le guancie aſperſe di que' vivi humori,
Che giu cadean ſin della veſte al lembo,
Parean vermigli inſieme, e bianchi fiori;

Se

Se pur gl'irriga un rugiado ſo nembo
Quando ſu l'apparir de'primi albori
Spiegano a l' aure liete il chiuſo grembo;
E l' alba, che gli mira, e ſe n' appaga,
D' adornarſene il crin diventa vaga.

Her beauteous cheeks in theſe bright ſorrows dreſt,
That trickled down her gold embroider'd veſt,
Like white and crimſon flow'rs appear to view,
Wet with irriguous ſhow'rs of pearly dew;
What time to gladſome airs, at early day,
Their boſoms folded fragrance they diſplay;
Aurora, pleas'd their beauties to behold,
With them adorns her radiant locks of gold.

The knight was going on in his uſual delightful manner, and we were liſtening to him with ſo much attention, that we already were near the obſervatory, without perceiving it.

CHAP. XXIII.

THE houſe was ſituated on the top of a mount, and on one ſide ſurrounded with cedars, above whoſe tufted tops appeared the gilt baluſtrade, that crowned the ſummit, and overlooked a large heath, covered with marjoram, balm and lavender, and other ſalutary plants of an aromatic flavour, and proper for the alembic. At the foot of the mount ran the lucent river Manſanarez. We quitted our voiture, and went up to the fabrick by an eaſy winding aſcent, bordered with fine ſtatues, repreſenting the famous aſtronomers, and profeſſors of other ſciences.

The ſtructure was built in form of a rotunda. One half of the out-ſide, next the cedars, was finely painted with large maps of the ſeveral regions of the earth, done after the deſigns of Franceſco Vecelli, Titian's brother*. The other half was of white

*Franceſco Vecelli was at firſt a ſoldier in the Italian wars, but peace being reſtored to Italy, he went to his brother Titian at Venice, where applying himſelf to painting he became a great maſter of deſign. Then he fell to making of ebony cabinets, adorned

white marble, ſo ſmooth and exquiſitely poliſhed, that all the adjacent country appeared in it as in a mirrour. As Boiardo ſays——

Fatto d' un marmo ſi terſo é pulito
Che'l giardin tutto in eſſo ſi ſpecchiava.

This ſide ſtood oppoſite to the river Manſinarez and a part of the heath, where was abundance of wild game and tame animals. Here you might diſcover the waves and fluctuations of the water in ſtrong and proper colours, with the pictures of boats or ornamented gondolas, entering the river and ſailing by degrees through the whole piece. In another part appeared the green ſhadows of trees waving to and fro with the wind, and herds of deer among them. Here peaſants and variety of game; flocks of ſheep, and a ſhepherd-ſwain piping at the foot of a ſpreading tree. Nothing could be more pleaſant, as it did not only,

with figures and architecture, which however did not hinder his painting a portrait now and then for a friend. His firſt pictures are of Giorgione's guſto, which was grand and terrible; bold or fierce in colouring. Franceſco Vecelli's pictures paſs for Giorgione's, even with ſeveral men of ſenſe. The maps have preſerved their colours a long time.

like other pictures, give the colour and figure, but the motion of the things it repreſented.

Over the grand entrance were inſcribed theſe words in golden letters: "A wiſe man ought to aſcend in thought into heaven, and underſtand the heavenly appearances, and be acquainted with what is contained in the bowels of the earth, and bring to light the ſecrets of nature. He ought to have knowledge of the divine nature and of his own: what the ſoul ſuffers here, and is deſtined to hereafter."

We were received by the chief profeſſor, the knight of Calatrava's brother, Don Sideranio de los Torres. He was a tall thin man with lank black hair; his complexion was dark, but his eyes lively and ſparkling. He was reckoned one of the moſt eminent geniuſes for aſtronomy and natural philoſophy in the whole kingdom. After having ſaluted us, he embraced his brother with affection; then conducted us into a fine apartment, where we found every thing prepared for our refreſhment, (for the knight had ſent him notice of our coming) cold partridges, fat ortolans, dried tongues and hams of St. Sebaſtian, together with ſeveral ſorts of fruit, and the moſt excellent wines. The morning air had given us an appe-

appetite, ſo that we did no little honour to the entertainment: after which, Don Sideranio led us to ſee the ſeveral apartments of the fabrick. It would be long to recount all the inſtruments of aſtronomy, phyſics, chymiſtry, which were there: teleſcopes, microſcopes, barometers, thermometers, aſtrolabes, æolipiles, quadrants, and the like. I ſhall only preſent to you three curioſities, to which I had never ſeen before any thing of like kind that bore a reſemblance either for fineneſs of workmanſhip or excellence of uſe. Theſe were three immenſe globes, each above one hundred feet diameter. They ſtood on the heath at ſome diſtance from the obſervatory, each in an octogonal building ſurrounded by a grove of loftieſt trees, through which were cut viſtas to the plain.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

THE firſt we ſaw was an enormous rugged globe. This globe, ſaid Don Sideranio, addreſſing himſelf to the counteſs Meleſinda, is to ſhew the earth according to the natural face of it, as it would appear from the moon, if it were a little nearer to her; or as it was at firſt after the deluge, before cities were built, diſtinctions of countries made, or any alteration by human induſtry. It is chiefly to expoſe more to view the mountains of the earth, and the proportions of ſea and land; to ſhew it as it lies in itſelf, and as a naturaliſt ought to conceive and conſider it. It is true there are far more mountains upon the earth, than what are here repreſented, for more could not conveniently be placed in this narrow ſcheme; but the beſt and moſt effectual way of repreſenting the body of the earth, as it is by nature, is, not in plain tables, but by ſuch a *rough globe*, expreſſing all the conſiderable inequalities that are upon the earth. The ſmooth globes commonly uſed, do but nouriſh in us the conceit

ect of the earth's regularity. And though they may be convenient enough for geographical purpoſes, they are not ſo proper for natural ſcience. Nothing is more uſeful in this reſpect than ſuch a *rough globe* of the largeſt dimenſions. Here you behold the channel of the ſea really hollow, as it is in nature, with all its unequal depths, according to the beſt ſoundings; and the ſhores expreſſed both according to matter and form; little rocks ſtanding where there are rocks; and ſands, and beaches, in the places where they are found. Here are all the iſlands planted in the ſea-channel in a due form, and in their ſolid dimenſions. Here you ſee coral, and all ſorts of ſea-plants, ſhells and ambergris.* Then upon the land are ſtanding all the ranges of mountains, in the ſame order or diſorder that nature has ſet them there, ſince the deluge; and the inland ſeas, and great lakes, or rather the beds they lie in, are duly repreſented; as alſo vaſts deſarts of ſand, that lie upon the earth. This is a true model of the preſent earth, after the deluge. All

* Some will have ambergris to be the wax or honey of ſome living creature; others ſay, it iſſues out of the root of a tree, that grows in the ſea, like gum; others, that it is a bitumen, and comes from the entrails of the earth, which is the moſt likely opinion.

All the time he was thus ſpeaking, he frequently went up cloſe to the globe, for we ſtood at ſome diſtance to have a better view of it, and to our admiration turned it as he pleaſed with his hand, its ſuſpenſion was ſo finely contrived.

Don Sideranio next conducted Meleſinda and us into another pavilion, where was another globe of the ſame proportions. It repreſented the earth, cultivated by human induſtry, and in its preſent ſtate. Here were ſeen cities and ſteeples, ſome with lofty ſpires and creſcents; others with towers of porcelain. There vaſt countries with no buildings, but huts, made of reeds or the branches of trees. Here were immenſe foreſts, wide oceans, with frightful deſarts; here noble ſtructures, fine cultivated woods, and pleaſant hills and plains: in ſhort, the infinite variety which is upon the face of the earth. Nor were wanting figures, ſome large as the life, others of leſs proportion, repreſenting men, women, and ſeveral animals. While the philoſopher Sideranio kept turning this vaſt globe, it was diverting enough to ſee how many different faces and perſonages paſſed before us. Some complexions white, ſome black, ſome tawny, ſome bronze or deep copper-colour. Sometimes hats, ſometimes turbans;

bans; now heads with hair, and then others without any. Here the black beauties of Africa with ornaments of gold at their noſe or lips; and there the fair charms of the Circaſſians Then the different beauties of the different climates of Europe: the dazzling luſtre of the fair beauty, and the richneſs of the Brunette: one bright as the luſtre of the day; the latter ſoft as a ſtarry night. All theſe figures ſeemed to live, ſo excellently had the artiſt formed them. They were made by Cornelius Vermeyen: he was born in a village near Haerlem. The emperor Charles V. took him into his ſervice, and he attended him in divers expeditions, particularly that of Tunis. He painted ſeveral hiſtorical events of that enterpriſe, the deſigns of which were afterwards executed in magnificent tapeſtries for King Philip II. who left them in Portugal, where they remain to this day. The emperor Charles V. loved to ſee him, for beſides that he was handſome and well-ſhaped, he had an extraordinary beard; it was brown and broad, and he always wore it intermixt with a few gold threads, by way of relievo, and moreover it was ſo long, that when he ſtood upright it touched the ground * The

* See De Pile's lives of the painters.

The philoſopher then opened a glaſs door in the ſide of the globe, and cauſed us to enter into it. We found, to our great ſurpriſe, the inſide of this immenſe convex all illuminated with a number of different and curious lights. In the midſt of which was another ſmaller globe, with ſeveral figures of men upon it. I demanded of the philoſopher what this was meant to repreſent? To which he applied—Here you ſee the formation of the earth in its inward parts. The exterior parts of the earth are formed inwardly like the concave ſurface of a petrified ſhell; and the internal as an inner globe, included, within ours, with a fluid medium between, which moves along with it, as having the ſame common center, without ſenſibly approaching one ſide or another, like the globe of Saturn environed with his ring And though theſe included globes can be of very little ſervice to the inhabitants of this outward world, nor can the ſun be of ſervice to them; yet ſince we ſee all parts of the creation abound with animate beings, why ſhould we think it ſtrange, that the prodigious maſs of matter, whereof this globe doth conſiſt, ſhould be capable of ſome other improvements than barely to ſerve to ſupport its ſurface? Why

Why may we not rather ſuppoſe, that the exceeding ſmall quantity of matter in reſpect of the fluid æther, is ſo diſpoſed by the divine architect, as to yield as great a ſurface for the uſe of living creatures, as can conſiſt with the convenience and ſecurity of the whole?

And though without light there can be no living, yet there are many ways of producing light, which we are wholly ignorant of. The medium itſelf may be always luminous, after the manner of our *ignes fatui*, or wandering lambent fires. The concave arches may in ſeveral places ſhine with ſuch a ſubſtance as inveſts the ſurface of the ſun: nor can we, without a boldneſs unbecoming a philoſopher, adventure to aſſert the impoſſibility of peculiar luminaries below, of which we have no ſort of idea.

Ipſi ſua ſidera norunt.——
Stars of their own they know.——

* This is to ſhew the poſſibility of a much

* This is the notion of the learned and ſagacious Halley.

Some think that water takes up the loweſt place about the center, but it is more likely that dry earth ſhould occupy that place.

much more ample creation than has hitherto been; and it is what the artiſt has endeavoured to repreſent by lights contrived through the help of yellow glaſſes to give a golden luſtre; by phoſphorus, and other chymical preparations, and eſpecially by that ſpecies of American birds, that

Gilbert was of opinion, that the body of the earth within is nothing but a very hard loadſtone; and that theſe exterior parts toward the ſurface, which are penetrated into by digging, and on which herbs grow, and we live, are but as it were the bark and cruſt of the earth, and the ſeat of perpetual generation and corruption.

The opinion of Des Cartes is not much different from this; for he believed there were three ſtrata in the body of the earth of divers conſiſtences. The firſt and innermoſt poſſeſſing the center, the ſecond of a denſe and opake nature, conſiſting of the minuteſt particles; the third, (being replete with men and animals) he ſuppoſes to be compounded of particles not ſticking ſo cloſe together.

Nevertheleſs for want of obſervation we cannot affirm any thing for certainty in this matter; and though it be true, that in ſeveral ſubterraneous places there is a glowing heat; and that ſmoke and ſulphureous fumes are exhaled from ſeveral hot baths; and alſo though Thurnheuſer affirms that he found by experience that the nearer they digged to the center of the earth, there was the leſs water in mines; yet we are ſtill in a doubt, and cannot poſitively depend upon his particular obſervation.

that reflect ſuch a light, that you may read by it in the darkeſt night, and which fly about, as you here behold them, like ſo many little burning meteors.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

WHEN we had examined every thing in this ſecond globe, we followed him into another pavilion, where was a third, a moſt beautiful one indeed. It repreſented the paradiſaical ſtate of the earth. With regard to this, ſaid Sideranio, two extreams are to be avoided; one, that places paradiſe in the extramundane regions, or in the air, or in the moon; and the other that makes it ſo inconſiderable, as to be confined to a little ſpot of ground in Meſopotamia, or ſome other country of Aſia, the earth being now as it was then. This offends as much in the defect, as the other in the exceſs. For it is not any ſingle region of the earth that can be paradiſaical, unleſs all nature conſpire, and a certain order of things, proper and peculiar for that ſtate.

It is manifeſt, that the golden age of the antients was cotemporary with our paradiſe, for they make it begin immediately after the production and inhabitation of the earth, and to degenerate by degrees till the deluge; when the world ended and begun again. The

The antients, beſides their golden age, which was common to all the earth, noted ſome parts of it, that were more golden, if I may ſo ſpeak, than the reſt, and which did more particularly anſwer to *paradiſe*; as their Fortunate iſlands, gardens of Heſperides, Alcinous, and ſo on: theſe had a double portion of pleaſantneſs.

In the golden age reigned a perpetual ſpring, a conſtant ſerenity of air.

Ver erat æternum: placidique tepentibus auris
Mulcebant zephyri natos ſine ſemine flores.

The ſpring was conſtant, and ſoft winds, that blew,
Rais'd without ſeed, flow'rs always ſweet and new.
* No change of ſeaſon or exceſs was there,
No winter chill'd nor ſummer ſcorch'd the air
But with a conſtant ſpring nature was freſh and fair.
Rough winds or rains that region never knew,
Water'd with rivers and the morning dew;
The heav'ns ſtill clear, the fields ſtill green and gay;
No clouds above, nor on the earth decay;
Trees kept their leaves and verdure all the year,
And fruits were never out of ſeaſon there.

Alcimus Avitus, on Geneſis.

As

* Non hic alterni ſuccedit temporis unquam
Bruma, nec æſtivi redeunt poſt frigora ſoles;
Hic ver aſſiduum cœli clementia ſervat.

Turbidus auſterabeſt, ſemperque ſub aere ſudo
Nubila diffugiunt, jugi ceſſura ſereno.
Nec poſcit natura, loci quos non habet, imbres,
Sed contenta ſuo dotantur germina rore.

As human kind was more beautiful, ſo were plants, trees, fruits, and all animals. Nature had a wild luxuriancy at firſt, which human induſtry by degrees gave form and order to: the waters flowed with a conſtant and gentle current, and were eaſily led which way the inhabitants had a mind, for their uſe, or for their pleaſure. Shady trees graced the banks of their rivers or canals; but what was the beauty and crown of all, was their perpetual ſpring, the fields always green, the flowers always freſh, and the trees always covered with leaves and fragrant fruits.

All creatures were beautiful, and much fewer in number than at preſent. The corruption of the earth and waters has produced infinite multitudes, poiſonous and deſtable; fierce and terrible. Whence all the ſpecies of animals of the *firſt* creation were eaſily contained within the ark.

You obſerve on this earth, there are none of thoſe ſhapeleſs and ill-figured old rocks and mountains we now behold.

Mountains are now indeed convenient for the taming the violence of the greater rivers,

Perpetuo viret omne ſolum, terræque benignæ
Blanda nitet facies: ſtant ſemper collibus herbæ
Arboribuſque comæ, etc.

rivers, for ſtrengthening certain joints within the veins and bowels of the earth: they break the force of the ſea's inundation; they are a refuge for wild beaſts, and ſometimes to men from danger; juſt as an old ruin may afford ſhelter againſt a ſtorm. They likewiſe conduce to the preſervation of health, by the fineneſs of their air, or the warmth they afford to the air of the valleys; or by their keeping off the cold winds, or for ſeveral other purpoſes, which had no place in the primitive earth: even volcanos, and mountains that vomit flame, thoſe dreadful phænomena of nature, in the preſent diſorder of things, are of uſe to prevent earthquakes, by giving vent to the fires and vapours contained in the globe, which otherwiſe would occaſion great and frequent calamities. But in the primitive earth, there were only, as you ſee here repreſented, little pleaſant hills, gentle ſwelling aſcents and declining valleys, ſuch as the poet deſcribes in their elyſium;

——They took their way
Where long extended plains of pleaſure lay.
The verdant fields with thoſe of heav'n may vie;
With æther veſted, and a purple ſky:
The bliſful ſeats of happy ſouls below,
Stars of their own, and their own ſuns they know.
In groves they live, and lie on moſſy beds
By cryſtal ſtreams, that, murmur thro' the meads:

——He

——He led him up the mountain's brow,
And ſhew'd him all the ſhining fields below;
They wind the hill, and thro' the bliſsful meadows go.
But old Anchiſes in a flow'ry vale——

And thus another great poet——

Flow'rs worthy of paradiſe, which not nice art,
In beds, and curious knots, but nature boon
Pour'd forth on hill, and dale, and plain.
For earth has this variety from heav'n,
Of pleaſure ſituate in hill and dale.

And to crown and confirm what I have ſaid, the divine writings declare, that the hills or mountains of the primitive earth were not above fifteen cubits high. Fifteen cubits upwards did the waters prevail, and the mountains were covered. So that there was no neceſſity for the fiery tail of a comet* to furniſh water to cover mountains three miles high——

But to make an end:—Theſe golden times, I have been ſpeaking of, fair counteſs, will come, when *He* ſhall come in glory, the brightneſs of whoſe countenance will, like flames of celeſtial fire, conſume all phyſical and moral evil. For he will come to renew all things, and reſtore the world to its primitive ſplendor and felicity.

Of

* See Whiſton.

Of this laſt period the heathen had a notion from their traditions: and thus deſcribe it:

The laſt great age foretold by ſacred rhymes,
Renews its finiſh'd courſe, Saturnian times
Roll round again, and mighty years, begun
From their firſt orb, in radiant circles run.
The baſe degen'rate iron offspring ends;
A golden progeny from heav'n deſcends;
Unbidden earth ſhall wreathing ivy bring,
And fragrant herbs (the promiſes of ſpring)
As her firſt off'ring to her heav'nly king.
The goats with milky dugs mid flow'rs ſhall breed,
And lowing herds ſecure from lions feed.
The lab'ring hind his oxen ſhall disjoin,
No plough ſhall hurt the glebe, nor pruning-hook the vine;
Nor wool ſhall in diſſembled colours ſhine.
But the refulgent father of the fold,
With native purple and unborrow'd gold,
Beneath his pompous fleece ſhall walk in ſtate;
And under Tyrian robes the lamb ſhall bleat.
The altars ſhall with offer'd flow'rs be crown'd;
The ſerpent's brood ſhall dye, the ſacred ground
Shall weeds and pois'nous plants refuſe to bear,
Each common buſh ſhall Syrian roſes wear.
Unlabour'd harveſts ſhall the fields adorn,
And cluſter'd grapes ſhall bluſh on ev'ry thorn.
The knotted oaks ſhall ſhow'rs of honey weep,
And thro' the matted graſs the liquid gold ſhall creep.

Thus did Don Sideranio entertain and inſtruct us delightfully, till it was time to

go to our dinner, which was very elegant. ——During which (as the Villadorian ſage had given me ſuch an account of the riſe of aſtrology, as I had never heard before) I took occaſion to aſk Don Sideranio's opinion of it: to which he made this anſwer:——

The antient philoſophers had no other notions of the influences of the ſtars, but ſuch as theſe, namely, that they act on things here below only in proportion to their light. And becauſe the light of the ſun alone is infinitely greater than that of all the ſtars put together, we ought to look upon that as the cauſe of all theſe effects.

But becauſe the Ægyptians, who were very good aſtronomers, thought fit to diſtinguiſh divers days of the ſolar year, by the different fixt ſtars, which riſe immediately after ſun-ſet, and took care to give notice to the people of the temperature of the air, which they obſerved in certain ſeaſons, and of what was proper for them to do in agriculture, when certain ſtars riſe after ſun-ſet; they took that for the cauſe, which was intended only for the ſign: and hence came the notion of moiſt ſtars, whoſe riſing produced rain; of others that cauſe drought; of ſome that made

plants

plants to grow, and of others which had a particular dominion over certain animals.

After this they aſcribed to the planets all thoſe influences, which they before aſcribed to the fixt ſtars. From the different ſituation of them, they pretended to foretell rain, ſerene weather, thunder and lightning, plenteous ſeaſons, and ſo on. And not content with this, they ridiculouſly promiſed to predict the moſt particular actions and fortunes of perſons.

We ſtayed at table in ſuch diſcourſe, and making uſe of the aſtronomer's excellent wine, till it was time to ſet out on our return; and we got to Madrid about cloſe of evening.

CHAP. XXVI.

TWO days after this excurſion, was the celebration of the bull fights. Of which I will now endeavour to give you ſome deſcription.

The bulls are wild and brought out of the foreſts, and mountains of Andaluſia. They are decoyed by cows, called mandarines, into encloſures where they are taken.

The place where the combates are celebrated, is the grand piazza or ſquare, which I have before mentioned. It is ſurrounded with ſtately houſes, five ſtories high, with a gilt balcony to every ſtory.

The king's balcony was hung round with green and gold curtains, which he drew or undrew, as he pleaſed to be ſeen or not ſeen.

It ſtands more forward than the reſt, and is more ſpacious. It is in the middle of one of the ſides of the piazza. A rich canopy is ſpread over it, as over all thoſe of the tituladoʼs and grandees. The tituladoʼs and grandees had all their ſeveral balco-

balconies, into which they entered by great glaſs doors.

Our houſe ſtood very convenient for the ſpectacle. And Don de los Torres and his brother the philoſopher ſate with us in our balcony. While preparations were making for beginning the fights, I begged the knight to give me an account of the nobility of Spain.

The nobility of Spain, ſaid he, are as antient as any in the world. The titulado's and grandees in the time of the firſt kings of Oviedo, Galicia, and Aſturias, were elected by the prelates of the kingdom, and by the Ricos-hombrez. Theſe lords not having obtained the titles of dukes, marqueſſes, and counts, were as the grandees of Spain at preſent.

The Ricos-hombrez ſtood covered before the king, centered among the ſtates, and had their poſitive and negative voice. The titulado's at preſent are the ſame, which were then called los Ricos-hombrez. Their privileges are not ſo large as antiently; but moſt of the antient honours have been preſerved to the grandees of Spain.

The titulado's may have a canopy of ſtate in their chambers; a coach in Madrid with four horſes, with los trios largos, or long traces of ſilk, which faſten the hin-

der horſes to the fore-ones. When there are bull-feaſts, they have balconies in the grand piazza, where their wives are regaled with baſkets full of ſweetmeats, gloves, ribbons, fans, ſilk ſtockings; and this at the king's expence, or at the town's expence, that gives the feaſt. Among the titulado's, the grandees eldeſt ſons are the chief. When the king makes a titulado, marqueſs of Caſtile, Arragon, or Granada, the perſon ſo dignified enters into the ſtates of the kingdom.

As to the grandees, there are three different ranks of them; and the manner, in which the king ſpeaks to them, in creating them, makes the diſtinction.

The one ſort are thoſe to whom the king ſays, "Cubridos," Be covered, without adding any thing elſe. Their grandeur is only attached to their perſon, and not to their family.

The others, whom the king qualifies with the title of one of their lands or eſtates, as for example, "Duke or marqueſs of Cuſco, cover yourſelf for you and for yours," are grandees of a greater rank than the firſt, becauſe their dignity deſcends to their ſons, or daughters, if they have no ſon.

The

The third ſort are thoſe, who are not covered, till they have ſpoken to the king.

Some there are, whom the king cauſes to be covered, before they ſpeak to him, in ſaying to them, "Cubridos"; and they ſpeak to the king and hear him ſpeak, always covered.

Others are only covered after they have ſpoke to the king, and the king has anſwered them.

Some are only covered, when they have withdrawn themſelves apart from the king. But when they are all together in public offices, or at council, there is no difference between them. They all ſit down and are covered before the king; and when he writes to them, he treats them as princes. They have the title of "excellency" given them. When their wives go to the queen, ſhe receives them, ſtanding; and inſtead of ſitting on the carpets, they have rich cuſhions brought them to ſit on. Here he ceaſed ſpeaking.

CHAP. XXVII.

IN the mean time, all the balconies about us were filled with ladies of the firſt rank: the king arrived, and the bull fight was to begin. Six knights fought that day. Theſe cavaleros, who had a mind to diſtinguiſh themſelves, were ſplendidly dreſſed. They wore ſcarfs of crimſon, blue, or any other coloured ſilk, embroidered with gold, the preſents of the ladies. They had on their legs little white buſkins, with long gilt ſpurs, which have only one ſharp point after the Mooriſh faſhion; and they were mounted on the fineſt Andaluſian horſes.

Every one of them had forty footmen; ſome cloathed in gold mohair, trimmed with lace; others in carnation-colour brocade, ſtreaked with gold and ſilver; and ſeveral other colours. Thus with all their train, they croſſed the piazza mayor, conducted by ſix heralds, the trumpets ſounding. They all came before the king's balcony, and made a profound obeyſance to him,

him, desiring leave of him to encounter los Tauros; which he granted, and wished the cavaleros victory.

Then the trumpets every where began to sound again: and all the people cried out, Viva, viva, los bravos cavaleros.

After this the knights separated, and saluted the ladies of their acquaintance.

All their attendants quit the piazza except two for each knight, who are left to carry their rejons, or garachons, which are lances, made of very dry firr about four or five feet long, painted and gilt, with polished steel points.

Several young men then enter the piazza mayor; and they come from great distance to fight the bulls on these days. But these are on foot, and not being nobly born, there are no ceremonies used with them.

It is a rule, that while one cavalero is engaged, the rest recede, but not out of the barriers. They do not assault that bull, which another has undertaken, unless he makes at them; and then the first to whom the bull comes, when they are all together, is he who fights him.

When the king thought it was time to begin the combats, two heralds came un-

der his balcony, and he gave to the privado or chief miniſter the keys of the places round the piazza, where the bulls were ſecured. And immediately the trumpets mixed their ſymphony with the ſounds of timbrels, drums, flutes, hautboys, and other inſtruments of muſick.

Then a bull is inſtantly let looſe, and being provoked, his eyes and noſtrils ſeem to burn with fire. His breath forms a thick miſt all about him. He runs with great ſwiftneſs, and holds his courſe without wearineſs. He bellows, and his bellowings echo like hollow thunder around the piazza. In ſhort he is very terrible.

The cavalero, who is to combat him, advances with a rejon in his hand. The tauro makes at him; the knight cauſes his gennet to leap aſide, and wounds his ferocious foe with his lance.

It is wonderful to ſee with what agility, on theſe occaſions, thoſe fine horſes, that are trained to it, are

——Light to bound,
Will ſtop and turn, and trace the mazy round.

Nor are the dexterity and horſmanſhip of the knights leſs admirable.

When

When a bull is killed, four heralds fetch four mules, which grooms, clad in orange or carnation-coloured ſatten, lead into the liſts. The mules are ornamented with high plumes of feathers and little ſilver bells; and the bull being tied with ſilken traces, they drag him away, amidſt the acclamations of the ſpectators, and the ſounds of trumpets. It cannot be denied, but that theſe ſpectacles are extreamly gallant, grand and magnificent, though accompanied with danger. It would be tedious to relate the ſeveral accidents and events in theſe combats. I ſhall content myſelf with only mentioning one ſingular and pleaſant enough.

In the ſecond day's courſe, Don Juan de Poncedeleon, being engaged with a furious bull, and ſeeming in great danger, a young peaſant dreſt in a blue ſilk jacket and a large white hat, ran into the liſts and killed the bull with a carabine. Poncedeleon was ſo provoked at the reſcue, that he ſtruck the peaſant on the head with his garachon, and made his hat fall off When behold, inſtead of the ſeeming peaſant, a young woman appeared in the midſt of the piazza, all covered with bluſhes, and adorned

ed with fine long hair, that fell plentifully in buckles upon her ſhoulders. She ſtrait turned away from Poncedeleon, only pronouncing the word, "Truffaldino."*

Don Poncedeleon was ſtruck with ſuch aſtoniſhment at the ſudden ſight of her, and at the boldneſs of the action, that he remained for ſome time without motion. At length he leaped from his horſe, and followed her out of the piazza. It ſeems, ſhe was the only daughter of an old Caſtilian, who cultivated his own farm. Though her father was not reckoned amongſt the gentry, yet he was of antient extraction, one of the vijos chriſtianos, or old chriſtians (for ſo they call the primitive Spaniards) and very rich, but a vaſſal of Don Juan's.

The young woman's name was Florimonda, and ſo beautiful, that Poncedeleon fell in love with her; and by the elegance of his perſon, and the moſt ſacred promiſes of marriage had ſeduced her innocence; but afterwards had left her, and now courted

* Truffaldino betrayed Angelica at the ſiege of Albraca.

See Boiardo.

ed Donna Doria, a lady of high rank and fortune. The king, who had ſeen all that had paſſed in the piazza, deſired to be informed of the whole affair. He ſent for Don Poncedeleon; what he ſaid to him in private is unknown; but the cavalier married Florimonda ſoon after, and was exceſſively fond of her.

Don Valdoranos's nephew, about the ſame time, married Indora, the beauteous Indian, and had fifty thouſand gold ducats with her, part her own and part the amirante's gift.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

WE took our repoſe for two days, after this grand ſpectacle; and the morning ſucceeding ſet out for the Eſcurial, twenty miles from Madrid. In our way thither we ſaw the Prado, another royal houſe; it conſiſts of a ſquare of four ſeveral apartments, ſeparated by galleries of communication, which are ſupported by pillars of fine marble. The furniture of this palace is not very rich, but there are good paintings; among others the portraits of the kings of Spain in their different dreſſes.

The Eſcurial is one of the largeſt and moſt magnificent palaces in the world, begun to be built by Philip the Second, king of Spain, ſon of the emperor Charles the Fifth, in the year 1557. He was twenty-two years in building it, and the ſtructure coſt him ſix millions of gold.

We went up to it through a long avenue of elm trees, which are planted in four rows. The great gate is ſtately, and adorned with divers marble pillars raiſed one above another. There is nothing wanting in

in this palace to render it a compleat and beautiful town; for here you ſee a fine church, a pompous college, a noble monaſtery, elegant dwelling-houſes, rich ſhops, artificers, cloyſters, fine gardens, and an extenſive park, with groves, fountains, caſcades, grottoes, charming proſpects, and every thing that can render a place agreeable in ſo hot a climate.

There are in the palace eleven thouſand windows; fourteen thouſand doors; eighteen hundred pillars; ſeventeen grand cloyſters or piazza's; and two and twenty grand courts.

The Pantheon, ſo called from its being built after the model of the Pantheon at Rome, is the mauſoleum of the kings of Spain, of the Auſtrian family. It is contrived under the great altar of the church, and all of marble, jaſper and porphyry. Within it are moſt ſtately tombs enchaſed in the walls. The ſteps down to it are of jaſper.

As to the church itſelf, the riches of it are incredible. There are eight ſets of organs; and paintings by the greateſt maſters.

Titian and others have exhauſted all their ſkill in painting the galleries of the palace and the library.

The

The picture of the battle of Lepanto is highly finiſhed. Take here a ſhort relation of that glorious event.

The Venetians, after having loſt the iſland of Cyprus to the Ottomans, applied for aſſiſtance to all the princes of Chriſtendom, whom the common intereſt ought to have united in their cauſe; but thoſe princes determined to ſit ſtill. Pope Pius the Fourth, a man of royal virtues, whom merit had raiſed to the rank of princes, had the courage to declare war againſt the Ottoman empire, by entering into a league with the Venetians, and Philip the Second, king of Spain. And now for the firſt time, the golden keys were diſplayed againſt the ſilver creſcent, and the galleys of Rome encountered the Ottoman fleet.

Never was ſo large an armament fitted out with ſo much expedition. Two hundred galleys, ſix large galeaſſes, twenty-five ſhips of war, with fifty ſail of tranſports, were all ready in the ports of Sicily in five months after the taking of Cyprus.

The Turkiſh fleet alone was ſtronger than the three chriſtian ſquadrons all together. It was compoſed of about two hundred and fifty galleys. The two fleets met

met in the gulph of Lepanto. Never ſince the battle of Actium, had ſo numerous a fleet been ſeen in the Grecian ſeas, nor ſo memorable an engagement. The Turkiſh galleys were worked by Chriſtian ſlaves. Moſt of theſe veſſels being grappled together, the ſoldiers fought hand to hand on their decks, as on a field of battle. Don Juan attacked the ſhip which carried the Turkiſh admiral Ali, who being killed, his head was fixt upon his flag-ſtaff over his creſcents. At length the chriſtians gained the victory, which was the more glorious, as being the firſt of its kind. The Turks loſt above one hundred and fifty ſhips in this engagement, and fifteen thouſand chriſtian captives were ſet at liberty. The king of Spain, the pope and the Venetians celebrated this victory with grand rejoicings. This painting was, as I ſaid, highly finiſhed :——

——Appear'd in adverſe line
Two fleets in arms, their arms like light'ning ſhine.
The billows ſeem'd to kindle as they roll'd,
And all Lepanto flam'd with burniſh'd gold.

Nothing could be more lively than the colouring and expreſſion. And, as our excellent Dryden ſays in his poem to Sir Godfrey Kneller——

——All

——All the figures in one action join,
As tending to compleat the whole deſign.

Age too had added to the beauty of the piece, and fulfilled what the ſame great poet thus deſcribes—

More cannot be by mortal art expreſt;
But venerable age ſhall add the reſt.
For Time ſhall with his ready pencil ſtand,
Retouch your figures with his rip'ning hand;
Mellow your colours, and imbrown the teint;
Add every grace, which Time alone can grant:
To future ages ſhall your fame convey,
And give more beauties than he takes away.

This picture was done by Hernandez el Mudo, a Spaniſh hiſtory-painter, diſciple of Titian.

The pictures likewiſe of the four evangeliſts, painted by the ſame Hernandez, are excellent. They are painted in freſco at the four corners of the upper grand cloyſter of the Hieronimites. There is alſo a fine one of St. John in the iſle of Patmos, done by the ſame hand. He is repreſented in a deſart, rocky country, amongſt antient trees of an enormous bulk, which are drawn to admiration.

We ſpent the day at the Eſcurial, and returned to Madrid the next morning.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

HAVING now been three months at Madrid, and the counteſs Meleſinda being advanced in her pregnancy, we ordered all our train to be ready to ſet out, in two days time, on our return to England. The road we propoſed to take was to St. Sebaſtian in the province of Biſcay, where we intended to embark on board ſome merchant-man.

We took our leave of Don Valdoranos, between whom and us there had paſſed frequent viſits during our ſtay. We did the ſame by Donna de Lunas and all the acquaintance we had made, ſeveral of whom we parted with reluctantly, but we promiſed to keep up a correſpondence with them by letter, particularly with Don de los Torres, the knight of Calatrava, for whom Meleſinda and I had conceived a great liking. And now the weather being very fine, and having furniſhed ourſelves with all ſorts of proviſion and ſome excellent wines, which Cœurleon had procured for us, we ſet out for Segovi, to ſee the fine aqueduct, built, as is ſuppoſed, by Trajan.

Trajan. It is five leagues in length, and ſupported by upwards of an hundred and ſeventy arches of extraordinary height in double rows, extending over a valley between two hills.

Here are alſo ſome curious walks along a meadow, planted with trees, whoſe leaves are ſo thick and large, that the greateſt heat of the ſun cannot pierce them.

There lofty trees yclad with ſummer's pride,
Did ſpread ſo broad, that heaven's light did hide,
Not pierceable with power of any ſtar:
And all along were pleaſant alleys wide.

At length we arrived at the fine town of Valladolid, ſituated near the confluence of the rivers Douro and Puicerda, in a large fruitful plain. It is one of the nobleſt towns in Spain, and has a flouriſhing trade. The grand ſquare, in the middle of the town, is ſupported by piazzas, and adorned, as at Madrid, with gilt balconies in every ſtory. There are ſeventy convents in this city. The univerſity and the biſhop's palace are fine ſtructures.

Valladolid was for a great while the manſion of the kings of Spain, and they have there a ſtately palace.

But

But what renders that city ſtill more honourable is, that it contains the tomb of the great Columbus.

The diſcovery of the Weſt-Indies was one of the moſt important events that ever happened. We ſtill mention with admiration the names of the Argonauts, who went in ſearch of the golden fleece; but they did not perform the hundredth part of what was done by Columbus.

Columbus, by conſidering the nature of the terraqueous globe, imagined that the land muſt bear a proportion to the water, and that the Eaſt-Indies extended ſo far towards that country, which is now called America, that he ſhould be able to find it by ſteering in a Weſtern direction.

This great ſailor had a courage given him equal to his genius, ſeeing he had to ſtruggle with the prejudices of his cotemporaries, and the repulſes of ſeveral princes to whom he applied.

At length he fixed all his hopes on the court of Spain. After long application, he obtained at length a patent from Ferdinand and Iſabella, and ſet ſail from the port of Palos in Andaluſia, with three ſmall ſhips.

It was not above a month after his departure from the Canary iſlands, where he had

had come to an anchor to get refreſhments, when Columbus diſcovered the firſt iſland in America. And during this ſhort run, he ſuffered more from the murmurings and diſcontent of his ſeamen, than he had done even from the refuſals of the princes to whom he had applied.

Ferdinand and his queen Iſabella were in the utmoſt ſurpriſe, to ſee him return at the end of nine months, with ſome American natives of Hiſpaniola, ſeveral rarities of that country, and a quantity of gold.

The king and queen made him ſit down in their preſence, covered like a grandee of Spain, and created him high admiral, and vice-king of the new world. Columbus was now every where juſtly looked upon as an extraordinary perſon, ſent by heaven for the diſcovery of the kingdoms unknown before.

He ſoon ſet ſail again with ſeventeen ſhips, and made the diſcovery of ſeveral other iſlands. Doubt had been changed into admiration on his firſt voyage; in this ſecond, admiration was turned into envy.

As ſoon as it was known that he was arrived, the people ran in crouds to meet him, as the guardian genius of Spain, when

when to their ſurpriſe they ſaw him brought from his ſhip in chains. He had been thus treated by Fonſeca, intendant of the expedition. Queen Iſabella was aſhamed of it, and did all in her power to make him amends.

At length he ſet ſail again, and then diſcovered the continent. After having built ſeveral houſes on it, and on the iſlands, he returned to Spain, where he enjoyed a reputation unſullied by rapine or cruelty; and died full of years, and honours, at Valladolid, in 1506.

A noble poet has thus made him to be foretold long before he was born. *

A knight of Genoa ſhall have the hardiment,
Upon this wond'rous voyage firſt to wend;
Nor winds, nor waves, that ſhips in ſunder rent,
Nor ſeas unus'd, ſtrange clime or rocks unken'd,
Nor other peril, nor aſtoniſhment,
That makes frail hearts of men to bow and bend,
Within Abila's ſtreight ſhall keep and hold
The noble ſpirit of this ſailor bold.

Thy

* Un' uom de la Liguria avrà ardimento
A l' incognito corſo eſporſi in prima;
Nè 'l minaccievol fremito del vento,
Nè l' inoſpito mar, nè il dubbio clima,
Né s' altro di periglio, o di ſpavento
Più grave e formidabile or ſi ſtima,
Faran, che'l generoſo entro a i divieti
D'Abila anguſti l' alta mente accheti.

Tu

Thy ſhip, Columbus, ſhall her canvas wing,
Spread o'er that world, that yet concealed lies,
And ſcant ſwift Fame her looks ſhall after bring,
Though thouſand plumes ſhe have and thouſand eyes,
Let her of Bacchus and Alcides ſing,
Of thee to future age let this ſuffice,
That of thine acts ſhe ſome forwarning give,
Which ſhall in verſe and noble ſtory live.

Fairfax.

Tu ſpiegherai Colombo, a un novo polo
Loutane ſi le fortunate Antenne,
Ch 'a pena ſeguirà con gli occhi il volo
La Fama, c' ha mille occhi, e mille penne
Canti ella Alcide, e Bacco, e di te ſolo
Baſti a' poſteri tuoi, ch' alquanto accenne;
Che quel poco darà lunga memoria
Di poema digniſſima, e d' iſtoria.

Taſſo. Jeruſalemme, cant. 15. ſtz. 31.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXX.

WE ſet out early next morning, and were ſurpriſed a little after ſun-riſing with a beautiful object and new. It was a mountain of ſalt, part of which was white as ſnow; and the other part more clear and tranſparent than cryſtal. There are blue, green, violet, orange, and a thouſand different colours, which loſe their dies when moiſtened. Though commonly the places, where ſalt is found, are ſo barren, that you ſee not ſo much as an herb, yet there are here pine-trees of great height, and excellent vineyards. When the ſun darts its rays on this mountain, it looks as if it wholly conſiſted of precious ſtones, ſaphirs, jacinths, topazes, rubies, carbuncles; and what was as extraordinary, or more ſo, was a curious fountain, that run at ſome paces diſtant from it, whoſe water is very good and of the colour of red wine.

In a village, called Mengravilla, we ſaw ſome famous mines of ſalt. You deſcend

above two hundred ſteps under ground, and then enter into a vaſt cavern formed by nature, and ſupported only by one pillar of cryſtalline ſalt of aſtoniſhing largeneſs, and adorned with variety of beautiful colours, like thoſe of the mountain; ſo that a number of lamps hanging againſt this huge pillar, form a luſtre which dazzles the eyes, like that of precious ſtones: and what ſeems incredible, a rivulet of freſh water flows through theſe ſalt mines, and furniſhes drink to the inhabitants, who ſeldom ſee the ſun but on feſtivals.

Before the ſetting of the ſun we entered Burgos. Burgos is the capital of Old Caſtile. This town was the firſt that was conquered from the Moors, and the kings of Spain long reſided here. Here are fine buildings; and in all the ſpacious ſtreets and grand ſquares are fountains with ſtatues. But the fineſt object is the cathedral; the architecture of which is ſo exquiſitely wrought, that it may paſs among the gothic buildings for a maſter-piece of art.

In the convent of the Auguſtins is a crucifix ſet with gems: above an hundred gold

gold and ſilver lamps are continually burning before it. There are ſixty ſilver candleſticks of a length exceeding the talleſt man, and ſo heavy, that two men cannot lift them. They ſtand on the ground on both ſides the altar. Thoſe, which are upon it, are of maſſy gold. You ſee between them two croſſes of gold, ſet with precious ſtones, and a crown, hanging over the altar, adorned with pearls and diamonds of great luſtre. The chapel is hung with tapeſtry wrought with gold, and ſilk. It repreſented the ſtory of Cain and Abel, and was made by the direction of the archbiſhop of Burgos. This prelate taught that Abel did not ſlay the firſtlings of his flock, but only conſecrated them to heaven: and he was of opinion, that the reaſon of Cain's fruits being rejected was, to ſignify to mankind, that the fruits were not to be conſecrated, but conſumed by the inhabitants of the earth: but as to the flocks and herds they might be kept ſacred to heaven, as they were not to be for food. This prelate likewiſe aſſerted, that Cain's fault lay in not implicitly and blindly confiding in his Creator: and that no mark was ſet upon him but only

only a promiſe given him by a ſign from heaven, that none ſhould hurt him. Theſe things were repreſented in the tapeſtry.

The chapel is ſo laden with rich gifts, that there is not room for them: part are kept in the treaſury.

The grand crucifix ſtands on the altar, and is near the natural bigneſs: it is covered with three curtains one on another, all embroidered with pearls and dimonds. When they open them, which is not done without great ceremony, and for perſons of quality, or on great feſtivals, ſeveral little gold bells are rung.

From Burgos we got to Miranda de Ebro, where the next day we croſſed that rapid river and took towards the Pyreneans in order to paſs over them to St. Sebaſtian. We reſted our mules one day at a ſmall town at the foot of the hills. Here we enquired if there was any danger of thieves in the mountains? and were anſwered that la Santa Hermandad * had pretty well cleared them of the bandoleros,

* The holy brotherhood in Spain, called la Santa Hermandad, was formerly an aſſociation to ſuppreſs robbers, in times of civil commotions; and at this day, is an eſtabliſhment kept up through all the kingdoms, and provinces of Spain, for the ſame purpoſe.

ros, and had taken three very lately. We were glad to hear this, though our company of attendants were all armed. Here we procured a litter to carry the counteſs Meleſinda over the mountains, and diſpoſed of our voiture.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXI.

THE next morning, we entered a rough way, which brought us to ſome very ſteep mountains, called Sierra de Santo Adriano. They are all precipices and craggs. Pine-trees of an immenſe height crown the tops of theſe mountains. As far as your ſight can reach, you behold nothing but deſarts, divided by ſtreams clear as cryſtal. Near the higheſt part of mount Santo Adriano, you meet with an high rock, which ſeems to have been placed in the midſt of the way to block up the paſs between Biſcay and Old Caſtile. A tedious and painful labour has pierced this maſs of ſtone in manner of a vault. You walk forty or fifty paces under it without any light, but what comes through the overtures of each entrance, which are ſhut by great doors. In this mountain is a little chapel of St. Adriano, and ſeveral caverns, where thieves commonly retreat, ſo that it is dangerous paſſing without being well armed.

When we had traverſed the rock, we ſtill had a little aſcent to get to the top of the

the mountain, which is eſteemed to be the higheſt of the Pyrenees. It is wholly covered with great aſh-trees. There never was a finer ſolitude. The ſprings run here tranſlucent as in the valleys. The proſpect is immenſe. Shades and ſilence reign all around you, and when you call, or play on any muſical inſtrument, fine echoes anſwer on every ſide. Upon one deſcent, a river, named Urrola, glides along the way, and breaks forth into particular ſtreams in ſome places, which falling down the rocks in impetuous caſcades afford a pleaſant ſight and ſound. On theſe mountains are only a few cottages thinly ſcattered up and down. In bad weather they ring little bells continually to tell you where you may retreat. All theſe natural objects, though deſolate, have ſomething very grand and ſtriking in them. There is a rude kind of magnificence, which appears in many of theſe ſtupendous works of nature, which gives us great delight. Our imagination loves to be filled with an object, or to graſp at any thing, which is too big for its capacity. We are flung into a pleaſing aſtoniſhment at ſuch unbounded views, and feel a delightful ſtillneſs and amazement in the ſoul at the apprehenſion of them. The mind

mind of man naturally hates every thing that looks like a reſtraint upon it, and is apt to fancy itſelf under a ſort of confinement, when the ſight is pent up in a narrow compaſs, and ſhortened on every ſide by the neighbourhood of walls or mountains. On the contrary, a ſpacious horizon is an image of liberty, where the eye has room to range abroad, to expatiate at large on the immenſity of its views, and to loſe itſelf amidſt the variety of objects, that offer themſelves to its obſervation. Such wide and undetermined proſpects are as pleaſing to the fancy, as ſpeculations of eternity or infinitude are to the underſtanding. But if there be a beauty or uncommonneſs joined with this grandeur, as in a troubled ocean, a heaven adorned with ſtars, or a ſpacious landſcape, like the Sierra de Santo Adriano, cut out into rivers, woods, rocks, caverns, valleys, the pleaſure ſtill grows upon us, as it ariſes from more than a ſingle principle.

We had now got a good way over the mountains, when we perceived a horſe come from between two hills, with a broken bridle, and on his back an old woman, dreſt in an old tarniſhed gown of gold brocade. Soon after appeared a young man, who called to us to endeavour to

ſtop

ſtop the horſe; which before we could do, the girts of the ſaddle broke, and the old woman fell down a precipice of an immenſe height and was daſhed to pieces. We teſtified the greateſt concern at the accident, but the young man coming up to us, told us, that ſhe had only met with her deſerts, being the wickedeſt old woman in the world. In the mean time our ſervants had ſtopped the horſe and delivered him to the young man, whom we entreated to tell us, who ſhe was, ſo richly habited, that had lately rode him. He anſwered, that he was going to a caſtle on the banks of the river Andaiyo, and that if we were going that way, he would tell us her ſtory as we rode along. We anſwered that we were going that road, and deſired much to hear the relation. This ſaid, he began in the following manner.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXII.

I Am the youngeſt ſon of Don Antonio de Rioſeca, who has a caſtle near the Andalyo. As I was going over theſe mountains to Eſtella, having lingered on my way, in order to view ſometimes one thing, and ſometimes another, the duſk of the evening overtook me in a very deſolate valley. But what ſurpriſed me exceedingly was, that looking behind me to ſpeak to my ſervant, I found he had taken an occaſion to diſappear, and to ride off clandeſtinely among the rocks with my portmanteau, in which were an hundred piſtoles, and ſome books of entertainment, which I generally took with me for my amuſement. My ſervant being gone, to whoſe guidance I had truſted, and the ſhades of night now coming on, I was at a loſs whether to return by the way I came, in caſe I could find it, which was almoſt impoſſible; or elſe proceed at a venture. I determined upon the latter, and wandered a long time up and down the mountains, ignorant where I was going, and frequently liſtening if I might hear one of thoſe

thoſe little bells ring, which give notice to travellers bewildered or overtaken by ſnow or rain, where they may retreat for ſhelter.

At length I found myſelf at the foot of a rock between two woods of tall pines. Being extreamly tired I alighted from my mule, and leaving her at liberty to graze, I went into a cavern that was in the rock, and laid myſelf down on a bed of moſs, near which was a purling ſpring. There I reſolved to paſs the night, and ſoon fell aſleep.

The beams of the ſun had already gilded the horizon, when opening my eyes, I ſaw an old woman, who ſeemed as antient as a ſibyl, ſtanding cloſe by me: and what rendered her wrinkled figure more deformed, was a looſe gown of tarniſhed cloth of gold, which ſhe had on. I looked on her in ſilent aſtoniſhment, not unmixt with ſome fear, for her perſon and the place made me apprehend ſhe was a witch. What is the matter with you, ſaid ſhe, young man, you ſeem afflicted? I told her I had been loſt in thoſe mountains, and had been robbed by my ſervant of my portmanteau with an hundred piſtoles, and begged her to direct me into the road to Eſtella. There is time enough

for

for that, ſhe replied, you muſt needs want ſome refreſhment: come, follow me; no harm ſhall happen to you. You may think yourſelf happy, that fortune has conducted you to this ſolitude, where you ſhall have piſtoles enough, and every thing you can wiſh for. I took courage, and reſolved to ſee where this ſtrange adventure would end. I was armed with a poniard and a brace of piſtols of Valentia, and determined to uſe them, ſhould I find myſelf in any dangerous emergency. We deſcended into the cavern, and at length came to an apartment, where by the light of lamps I ſaw a great deal of rich ſtuffs, and proviſion of dried fruits, and wines in boracchios, promiſcuouſly lying together. Thence we came to a large ſaloon, where was a great fire on a hearth

I now began to ſuſpect where I was; namely in ſome retreat belonging to the bandoleros, who are certain thieves that haunt theſe mountains, robbing travellers, and carrying off ſometimes ladies of rank, whom they ſet at an high ranſom; but when they take a fancy to them for their beauty, they keep them. I was not miſtaken, for in a little time four men came in armed with carabines. Old Ogrina, for that was her name, told them my ſtory, which

which gave them much diverſion : however, they treated me well ; but at Ogrina's inſtigation, who was the captain's mother, and had, it ſeems, taken a liking to me, they would not let me go, but have kept me in the cave theſe two months, leaving always one of the band to guard me.

We aſſiſted the old ſibyl in preparing regales for the band : and all the time they were not out upon their expeditions, they ſpent in feaſting, drinking and ſinging ; ſo that their minds were ſtupified to all reflection, except fear and apprehenſion ſometimes of the Hermandad ſeizing them.

We have not ſeen three of them a good while, inſomuch that he, who was laſt left with me in the cavern, began to ſuſpect that his companions were fallen into the hands of the *Santa Hermandad* ; and propoſed to me this morning to leave the place, which he apprehended would be ſoon diſcovered. After making me this propoſal, he went where the gold and ſilver lay, and loaded himſelf with as many piſtoles as he could ; then mounting his horſe, that ſtood in a ſtable within the cavern, rode off, leaving me to take care of Ogrina, whom he recommended to me.

I im-

immediately went and took all the gold and ſilver he had left, and told Ogrina that I would ſee her to ſome place of ſafety and provided for, if ſhe would lead a better life than that ſhe had hitherto done among the bandoleros. She agreed to follow me, and being afraid to be left alone, promiſed every thing I deſired of her. In the ſtable I found a horſe and my own mule. I ſaddled the horſe and faſtened her upon him, ſo that ſhe could not be thrown off. Then I went into my apartment to fetch ſome ſmall things of value I had there.

In the mean time Ogrina's horſe, which I had faſtened to a tree, being frighted at ſomething, broke his bridle, and trotted away with her. I found I could not ſtop him, ſo I went ſoftly after him, hoping that he would lead me to Eſtella or St. Sebaſtian, as he had been accuſtomed to the turns of thoſe mountains. Accordingly he brought me to the road where I fortuned to meet with you. Thus the young man concluded his ſtory. We felicitated him upon his eſcape, and told him what we had heard of the bandoleros being taken by the Hermandad; and that we would ſee him ſafe to his father's caſtle on the Andaiyo. He thanked us very graciouſly,

ciouſly, and we arrived at the caſtle that evening, juſt as the ſun was ſetting.

Don Antonio de Rioſeca, who had heard nothing of his ſon's adventure, and imagined him to be ſafe at Eſtella, heard his ſtory with the greateſt ſurpriſe and joy. He entertained us very handſomely that night, and adviſed us to ſend our equipage and mules to St. Sebaſtian, and to go thither ourſelves by water, which, he ſaid, we might do very pleaſantly. We took his advice, and the next morning, (Don Antonic having ordered all things the night before) we ſent away our mules and equipage, and walked to the banks of the river.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIII.

WE went down the river Andaiyo in little boats, ſet out with gilt ſtreamers. They were managed by girls; two rowed, and one held the rudder. Theſe girls are well ſhaped, and of a brunette complexion; they have fine teeth and ſparkling eyes. Their hair they tie with ribbons, and let it fall down their ſhoulders. They wear a kind of veil on their heads, made of muſlin, embroidered with flowers of gold and ſilk, which hangs looſe and covers their breaſts from the ſun. They have pendents in their ears of gold and pearls; and on their arms bracelets of coral. Their habit is a waiſtcoat of ſilk or velvet, with very ſtrait ſleeves.

There is a kind of republic of theſe wenches, where they repair from all parts, and where their parents ſend them very young.

When they are willing to marry, they go to church at Fontarabia, which is the neareſt town to them; and there the young men

men come to chuſe them wives to their fancy. He that will engage himſelf in the nuptial ties, goes to the parents of the girl, whom he has a liking to, and declares to them his intentions, and orders every thing with them. This being done, the young maid is acquainted with it by her lover. If ſhe likes him, their nuptials are celebrated with muſick and dancing.

I never ſaw a more gay air than on their countenances. They have ſmall habitations along the banks of the river, where there are old maidens to whom the young ones pay reſpect as to their mothers. They related theſe particulars to us in their language, and we heard them with great delight. In this manner we arrived at St. Sebaſtian.

St. Sebaſtian is ſituated at the foot of a mountain, which ſerves on one ſide as a rampart againſt the ſea; the ſhips come to the foot of this mountain to ſhelter themſelves from the ſtorms, which are ſometimes very violent. The port is deep ſea, and defended by two moles, which leave only as much room as is requiſite for one ſhip to paſs at a time. There is a great ſquare tower, where is a garriſon to defend

fend the place. The town is pleaſant enough: it is ſurrounded with a double wall, and there are ſeveral pieces of braſs cannon on the ſide next the ſea.

The out-parts of the town are pleaſant to walk in, by reaſon that the ſea ſerves for a channel to it, and is bordered with gardens, and ſeveral rows of citron, pomegranate, and other fair trees.

The ſtreets of this town are long and ſpacious, paved with broad white ſtones, which are always clean. The houſes are neat, and the churches decent, without any remarkable beauty or ornament. Mines of iron and ſteel abound in this country, finer and purer than in any other part of Europe: this is the greateſt part of their trade. Here the fine wool, which comes from Caſtile is embarked, which makes a conſiderable part of their traffic. Bilboa and St. Sebaſtian are two of the fineſt ports which the king of Spain has on the Atlantic ocean.

Fiſh is excellent here, and fruits the ſame. Here is alſo a convent of nuns, which is ſo agreeably ſituated that you have from thence, at the ſame time, a

proſpect

proſpect of the ſea, ſhips, towns, woods, and fields.

The inhabitants of St. Sebaſtian have a particular privilege. When they treat of any affairs with the king of Spain in perſon, he is obliged to ſpeak to them uncovered.

We furniſhed ourſelves here with a number of hams and dry tongues of moſt exquiſite reliſh, being ſmoaked with juniper and other odoriferous woods.

Here we took leave of Cœurleon, who promiſed, that if a war ſhould break out between England and Spain, he would quit the Spaniſh king's ſervice. You may be ſure ſome tears were ſhed between him and his ſiſter Meleſinda at parting. How he came and ſettled in England I may perhaps relate ſome other time.

A large ſhip being ready to ſail for England, we hired all the apartments, which were richly furniſhed and hung with crimſon ſilk: and having diſpoſed of our mules, and the wind being fair, we embarked, and after a pleaſant voyage arrived ſafe at England.

We fired ſome guns, and hung out certain ſtreamers, which were ſignals agreed upon with my uncle, who by them preſently

ly learnt our coming into the harbour. He haſtened to meet us, and received us with extream joy at our landing. After embracing my uncle, the firſt thing Meleſinda enqired about was, if he knew how the cittern did. My uncle anſwered that he was in good health amongſt her ſinging birds; and in company with the quincena: that he had lately wrote word, that his Meleſinda's return would be far more agreeable to him, than all the beauties of nature ever were, when after the rigours of a tedious and ſtormy winter, ſhe revives in the ſpring.

FINIS.

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